



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PUSA

THE
United Planters' Association
OF
Southern India

(INCORPORATED).

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT
BANGALORE

ON
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th August, 1910,
With an Appendix.

Bangalore :

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1910.

THE
United Planters' Association
OF
Southern India

(INCORPORATED),

LICENSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Dated 22nd April, 1899.

LICENSE.

Whereas "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" is an Association which is registrable under the Indian Companies' Act, 1882, as a limited Company, and whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that it is formed for the purposes set forth in the Memorandum of Association, and that it is the intention of the Association to apply the profits and income of the Association to promote those purposes, and that payment of any dividend to its members is prohibited by the fourth article of the Memorandum of Association, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct under the provisions of Section 26 of the said Act, that "The United Planters' Association of Southern India (Incorporated)" shall be registered with limited liability, but without the addition of the word "limited" to its name.

THE

United Planters' Association

OF

Southern India

(INCORPORATED).

ESTABLISHED 1894--INCORPORATED 1899.

District Planters' Associations represented.

ANAMALAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Anamalais.</i>
CENTRAL TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION..			<i>Travancore.</i>
COCHIN AND NORTH TRAVANCORE PLANTERS'			
ASSOCIATION...			<i>Cochin.</i>
COORG PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Coorg.</i>
KANAN DEVAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
MUNDAKAYAM RUBBER PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION...			<i>Travancore</i>
NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Nilgiris.</i>
NORTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Mysore.</i>
SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Mysore.</i>
SOUTH TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Travancore.</i>
SHEVAROY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Shevaroy's.</i>
WYNAAD PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION	...	...	<i>Wynaad.</i>

Executive 1910-1911.

Chairman.—R. D. TIPPING, *Pollibetta, Coorg.*

Vice-Chairman.—C. H. BROCK, *Valparai, Anamalais.*

Council.—The Chairman, *ex-officio*; the Vice-Chairman, *ex-officio*; the Association's Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George; the ex-Chairman (Chairman during the previous year); and the Honorary Secretaries of the respective District Planting Associations (or such other Representatives as these Associations may from time to time appoint).

Secretary.—HARRY ORMEROD, *Bangalore.*

Representatives on the London Chamber of Commerce:

1902-1911...JNO. C. SANDERSON.

1901-1902...JNO. C. SANDERSON and BROOKE MOCKETT.

1897-1901...JNO. C. SANDERSON.

1896-1897...JNO. C. SANDERSON and FRANK MANGLES.

1895-1896...JNO. C. SANDERSON.

Representative on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. G. HAMILTON, *Chundrapore, Mudigere.*

Former Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

Chairmen.

1894-1895...Mr. DIGBY T. BRETT.
 1895-1896...Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
 1896-1897...Mr. G. L. ACWORTH.
 1897-1898...Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
 1898-1899...Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
 1899-1900...Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
 1900-1901...Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
 1901-1902...Mr. ROBERT GOMPERTZ.
 1902-1903...Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
 1903-1904...Mr. GEO. ROMILLY.
 1904-1905...{ Mr. H. M. KNIGHT.
 { Mr. G. K. MARTIN.
 1905-1906...Mr. W. H. SPROTT.
 1906-1907...{ Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
 { Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.
 1907-1908...Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
 1908-1909...Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
 1909-1910...Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.

Vice-Chairmen.

Mr. G. R. EVANS.
 Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
 Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
 Mr. H. G. PARSONS.
 Mr. J. C. ABBOTT.
 Mr. J. W. HOCKIN.
 Mr. A. LAMBERT.
 Mr. J. A. HARRIS.
 Mr. E. G. WINDLE.
 Mr. O. SCOT-SKIRVING.
 Mr. G. K. MARTIN.

 Mr. C. E. ABBOTT.
 Mr. AYLMER MARTIN.

 Mr. J. G. HAMILTON.
 Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON.
 Mr. BERNARD MALCOLM.

OFFICES: 5, FOWLMONGERS' STREET, MADRAS,
 and
 25, SOUTH PARADE, BANGALORE.

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THE LATE KING-EMPEROR, EDWARD VII.

*Copy of Telegram despatched on the 16th
May, 1910, to the Private Secretary to H. E.
the Governor of Fort St. George by the
Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.*

"The United Planters' Association of Southern India desires to express profound grief at the death of the late King Edward the Seventh, most humbly offers deep sympathy and sincere condolence to Her Most Gracious Majesty Alexandra the Queen Mother and to the Members of the Royal Family, and also most humbly submits an assurance of its loyal devotion to the Crown and to His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth."

The United Planters' Association

OF

→X Southern India X←

(INCORPORATED.)

THE ANNUAL MEETING,

First Day, Monday, August 1st, 1910.

A Committee Meeting was held at the Mayo Hall, Bangalore, from 11 A.M. to 12-45 P.M. on Monday, 1st August, and the annual report having been passed and the agenda paper discussed at this opportunity, the Seventeenth Annual Meeting was opened at 3 P.M. There were present Mr. J. A. Richardson, Chairman, Mr. Bernard Malcolm, Vice-Chairman, the Hon'ble M.. J. G. Hamilton (Planting Member of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George), Mr. R. D. Anstead, B.A., Scientific Officer to the Association, and the following delegates :—

<i>Anamalais</i>	...	...	MR. C. H. BROCK.
<i>Central Travancore</i>	...	- ...	MR. W. H. G. LEAHY.
<i>Cochin and North Travancore..</i>		{	MR. R. L. GUDGEON.
		{	MR. E. F. BARBER.
		{	MR. C. LAKE.
<i>Coorg</i>	...	...	MR. C. E. MURRAY-AYNSLEY.
		{	MR. R. D. TIPPING.
<i>Kanan Devan</i>	...	...	MR. AYLMER FF. MARTIN.
<i>Mundakayam</i>	...	...	MR. J. J. MURPHY.
<i>Nilgiris</i>	...	...	MR. E. F. BARBER.
		{	MR. W. C. DEANE.
<i>North Mysore</i>	...	...	MR. C. DANVERS,
		{	MR. C. K. PITTOCK.
<i>South Mysore</i>	...	...	MR. C. LAKE.
		{	MR. C. J. HAYWARD.
<i>Shevaroy's</i>	...	...	MR. CHARLES DICKINS.
<i>South Travancore</i>	...	...	MR. L. G. KNIGHT.
		{	MR. C. E. ABBOTT.
<i>Wynaad</i>	...	...	MR. A. H. MEAD.

Mr. H. G. Parsons attended as an ex-Vice-Chairman.

Among the visitors present during the day were Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Anstead, the Misses Munro, Miss Horsely, Dr. Leslie Coleman, Mr. E. Lund, Mr. J. Aird, Mr. P. G. Tipping, and Mr. W. W. Hight.

The Late King-Emperor

As soon as all the delegates had assembled, the CHAIRMAN spoke as follows in alluding to the lamented death of the late King-Emperor, all delegates standing until he had finished :—

Gentlemen,—As you are aware, this is our first Meeting since the lamentable death of our King and Emperor Edward VII, which cast such a gloom over the British nation, and I may say over the whole civilised world. This Association on behalf of the planting community telegraphed our sincere condolences with the Queen Mother and other Members of the Royal Family and also expressed our unfailing loyalty to our new King and Emperor George V. No words of mine are needed to add to what has already been written, and said, of one whose death has ended one of the most glorious lives the world has ever known, and King Edward VIII's name will go down to History with the well-earned title of "Edward the Peace-Maker." I venture to say on behalf of the community that we would take this opportunity of again expressing our continued loyalty to our new King and Emperor and assure His Majesty that as in the past, though a small community, we are ever ready to place our services at the disposal of our King and country.

The CHAIRMAN then said that the first item on the Agenda was the adoption of the Secretary's Annual Report, which had been passed in Committee; and if they were all agreed he would ask some delegate to propose that it be taken as read.

On the motion of MR. E. F. BARBER, seconded by Mr. Charles DICKINS, the report was taken as read and formally adopted by the Conference.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1909-10.

The following is the report :—

This report must be prefaced by a brief reference to an event that occurred during the present year and administered a very severe shock to the subjects of the British Crown throughout the world. By the planting community of South India, as by Englishmen generally, the demise of King Edward VII was doubtless felt as a personal loss as well as a national one. An expression of humble and loyal condolence, as well as of continued loyalty to the Crown, was telegraphed, on behalf of the Association, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras for transmission through the proper channels; but words were powerless to do justice to such a lamentable occasion.

At the Annual Meeting in 1909 it was decided to open and equip a suitable office for the Association, and more especially for the use of the Scientific Officer and the Secretary. The premises No. 25 South Parade were occupied in due course, a writer and a peon for the Scientific Officer were engaged, the records of the Association were transferred to the new headquarters, and, though progress was slow and there still remain many details to receive attention, it may be said that all arrangements have been placed on a businesslike footing. Had this not been done, the rapidly developing work of the executive could hardly have been dealt with so as to avoid a heavy accumulation of arrears. Roughly speaking, this work has trebled within the year, the increase being largely due to the coming of the Scientific Officer, which has necessarily caused an increase in correspondence, in the amount of money passing through the books, and, in less marked degree, in the number of personal visits from planters seeking information or desiring to discuss planting affairs.

As at present organized, the office arrangements are capable of being widened and adjusted to meet any demand that is likely to be made upon them; and the Scientific Officer and the Secretary are in full accord as to the convenience and the positive advantages derived from joint work "under one umbrella."

Though the Travancore Cardamom Hills Planters' Association must be taken as having dissolved and as having ceased, therefore, to be a member of the U. P. A. S. I., its place on the membership roll was taken towards the close of the year by the newly formed Cochin and North Travancore Planters' Association, temporarily admitted by vote of the Council. The admission of this Association to permanent membership will no doubt be taken into consideration at the present meeting.

Six gentlemen have availed themselves of the new Rule 7 introduced last year and have received the Circulars of the Association.

In the interests of the Scientific Department correspondence and interchange of publications with other Scientific Departments and scientists in India, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the West Indies, the United States of America and elsewhere have been made a special feature of the current work of the office, and the response from the gentlemen approached has been very encouraging. In this connection *The Planters' Chronicle* has proved useful, while it has derived simultaneously additional value for the planting community of South India.

The U. P. A. S. I. has also been called upon to supply information to some of the scientists under reference, and has been able to render a certain amount of help.

Legislative Council of Fort St. George.—Following upon the consideration, at the last meeting, of the method of procedure to be adopted by the U. P. A. S. I., in the election of a representative of planting interests to a seat on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George, correspondence with the Special Officer deputed by Government to frame rules in respect to such elections brought about a satisfactory understanding, and suitable rules were issued in due course.

As a result of the election organised by the Association the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Hamilton was appointed to a seat in the Legislative Council of Fort St. George; and evidence of his active endeavours to advance the interests of the community he represents have been plentiful during the year under review.

The Scientific Officer.—It will be remembered that the Director of Agriculture, Madras, attended last year's meeting for the special purpose of arranging details concerning the relationship of the Scientific Officer appointed to assist the planting industries to the U. P. A. S. I. As a result of Mr. Couchman's representations a thoroughly satisfactory agreement was arrived at during the year. Later, a question cropped up regarding the sum to be budgeted for the travelling allowance of the Scientific Officer, for which sufficient provision has not yet been made. Mr. Couchman has been good enough to promise to attend the present meeting so that this subject may be discussed with him.

The Board of Revenue raised a question whether the Scientific Officer's "Contingencies" should not be paid by the U. P. A. S. I. rather than the Government of Madras; but a representation from this Association caused the Government to decide to enter these charges in their own budget estimate.

A brief statement will suffice to explain what has been done in regard to the principal Resolutions adopted at the last Annual Meeting.

Liquor Shops in the Vicinity of Estates.—The representations made to the Governments concerned must be said to have been efficacious, if the almost complete absence of complaints from the planting districts affords any guide to the course of events. It should be noted that as far back as February 19, 1908, the Chief Commissioner of Coorg passed orders that all new sites for liquor shops in that province should be previously notified with a view to ascertaining any local objection to their position, and that in the case of shops near coffee estates the planters concerned should be consulted.

Proposed Pest Act.—Delegates this year may be able to state the views taken by their respective Associations concerning the need for a Pest Act,

Pepper Vine Disease.—Government kindly deputed Mr. McRae, Officiating Imperial Mycologist, to visit the Wynaad for the purpose of studying the disease. The Scientific Officer to the U. P. A. S. I. accompanied Mr. McRae, and a preliminary report was published, in which a scheme of local experiments was suggested.

Telegrams.—Combined with the representations of various Chambers of Commerce, Trades Associations and other bodies, the protest entered by the U. P. A. S. I. has doubtless helped to bring about a more satisfactory condition of affairs than that which has commented upon in August last.

Proposed Coffee Cess.—Backed by the Planting Member's personal conversations with officials, last year's resolution on this subject has brought about a change of attitude on the part of some of those who are at first hostile to the proposed Cess scheme. It is understood that the Madras Government are willing to bring the matter again before the Government of India, with an expression of opinion favourable to the proposition, if a sufficiently clear case can be made out, showing that the great bulk of coffee planters desire that a Cess shall be imposed.

The work of ascertaining the views of members of District Planters' Associations, of other European planters, and of Indian producers has been difficult and tedious. To obtain lists of names of producers in certain districts was the work of many months, and from some districts complete lists cannot, apparently, be expected. The Indian planters of South Mysore have, through their Association, voted in favour of the Cess; more than half of the principal Indian coffee-growers of North Mysore approached have voted dead against it. During the next few weeks, an endeavour will be made to carry out arrangements that will make it possible to gauge the balance of opinion approximately, and then to lay before the Government the statement that they have so long awaited.

Feeder Roads on the Shevaroyes.—Representations under this head have proved of no avail, the Madras Government appearing to think that they have done all that planters on the Shevaroyes can reasonably expect for the present. Government decline, at any rate, to spend any more money on such roads just now.

Roads and Communications.—The latest information about the Theni Bridge is that estimates have been definitely sanctioned at last, and that work will be begun this year. About the question of repairing or renewing the Calicut Pier the Association has received no information from the P. W. D. Secretariat. The Renard Road Train project for Mysore and Coorg has fallen through, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company having declined to take it up. As regards the proposed Arsikere-Mangalore line the Government of India "while recognising the

importance of providing a link between Mysore and the West Coast, regret that owing to the prior claims of more important projects both in the Madras Presidency and other parts of India they are unable to find a place for it in the Railway Construction Programme in the near future." This programme, Government explain, "includes all Railway projects involving either direct expenditure or any financial liability to Indian revenues, and it has so many claims on it of a stronger nature than those of the Arsikere-Mangalore line that there is no prospect of the latter line finding a place in the programme for many years to come. Should, however, any private Company come forward with proposals to finance the construction of the line on Branch line terms not involving a firm guarantee, the Government of India will be prepared to give their proposals sympathetic consideration."

Government Purchases of Cinchona.—Negotiations with Government anent the fixing of a minimum price of one anna per unit in the purchase by them of Cinchona Bark in India have been pushed forward to a certain point. Following upon a point-blank refusal to agree to such a scheme, Government asked for statistics of Cinchona cultivation in the various districts, and some of these have yet to be furnished by the Associations concerned. The Planting Member, who has taken a keen, practical interest in the matter, stated the position very clearly in a letter that was published in *The Planters' Chronicle* of April 23, 1910.

Coffee Curing and Freights.—Replies to representations on this subject have been made known through the medium of the same publication. They showed that only one firm of curers was prepared to meet planters in respect to a reduction of curing charges.

Labour Matters.—These will doubtless receive fresh consideration this year, the Council not having been placed in a position to take action in accordance with the conditions resolved upon last August. The interest of planters has been stimulated, and inquiries made by Government point to a desire to trace the defects of present legislation on this subject and to provide remedies for proved disabilities or grievances.

Mr. Brock's scheme in regard to the registration of labourers has elicited much deserved praise of that gentleman's exhaustive and painstaking study of the subject and the thorough manner in which his plans were elaborated; but the general opinion may perhaps be expressed in the assertion that the scheme is too complicated for adoption.

The resolution of the Association regarding failure on the part of process-servers and the police to serve warrants and summonses, elicited from Government a request for a list of cases in which warrants, &c., had not been duly executed. Instances of such

failure were furnished, and Government then stated that "under the rules in force the work of the Police in connection with the service of processes is carefully supervised; and that if in any district the Police are thought to neglect their duty in this respect complaints to the District Magistrate will without doubt receive due attention." Government did not consider that the facts laid before them warranted the adoption of special measures in this matter.

Act XIII of 1859.—In June last, the Government of Madras requested to be informed whether any difficulties have arisen in connection with the operation of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859 (XIII of 1859) owing to offenders absconding to Native States, and, if so, whether in the opinion of the United Planters' Association any special measures are desirable to provide for their arrest in such cases.

Inquiries have been instituted, and a reply will be sent shortly. Naturally, however, planters who are working under Act I of 1903, and not under Act XIII of 1859, have expressed a desire that attention be called also to the difficulties which they have to face in the matter of the absconding of labourers to Native States.

Ceylon and Indian Import Duties on Tea.—The Government of India regret their inability to entertain the suggestion of the Association that the duty on all tea imported into India should be raised to four annas a pound. In the opinion of Government, "the imposition of a protective import duty on tea would be opposed to the principles on which the Indian tariff is based."

Thefts of Tea.—The Madras Government have not seen their way to legislate at present for the prevention of the sale of Tea by employees on estates other than those authorised to sell the article.

The Anti-Tea-Duty League.—Shortly after the 1909 meeting a letter was received from the Secretary of this League, in which he stated that the retention of the Tea Duty at 5d. was practically a foregone conclusion for the year. Funds were still required, however, so that the League might continue to get the whole subject of the Tea Duty "thoroughly ventilated so that public opinion may be concentrated upon the injustice of the tax."

Publications.—Early in 1910 *The Planters' Chronicle* was changed from a monthly to a weekly publication, and, thanks mainly to the energetic way in which the Scientific Officer has contributed to its columns, the paper has gained greatly enhanced popularity among an increasing number of readers. Its scope of utility has been widened, and will be extended further as circumstances permit.

The Book of Proceedings also has sold more freely of late than in former years.

Accounts.—The Auditors to the Association having given up business, the accounts now laid before you have, with the sanction of the Chairman, been audited by Mr. W. H. Haldwell, of the Bangalore Bank, Ltd., a gentleman whose ability and conscientiousness as an accountant and auditor are well known to many people in Bangalore. The meeting will be asked to confirm this arrangement. It will be seen that the figures are much larger than at any time in the past history of the Association, this, of course, being consequent upon the development of the work of the Scientific Department, the opening of a well organized office, and the starting of the S. I. Planters' Benevolent Fund. As regards the General Fund, the "actuals" for 1909-10 compare with "estimates" as follows :—

	Estimate.	Actuals.
Income	Rs.8,118 15 8	Rs.8,722 1 4
Expenditure	„ 7,100 0 0	„ 6,643 1 10

The actual income, however, includes a second dividend from the insolvent estate of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Madras, for which no definite entry was made in the Estimates for the year. Of the Rs.1,000 annual grant from the Government of Madras (for the Scientific Officer's office and establishment) only Rs.750 was received last year, owing to the office not having been opened until September 1909. This was partly counterbalanced by an increase of Rs.125 in the amount of Subscriptions collected. After transfer to the Reserve Fund of the second dividend referred to above (Rs.712) together with Rs.288 taken from the General Fund to make up a round Rs.1,000, the actual balance at the close of the year stood at Rs.1,078-15-6, against a balance shown in the Estimates of Rs.1,018-15-8. Of the former sum Rs.409-14-0 was temporarily lent to the Scientific Officer Fund to make up the quarterly contribution of Rs.750 payable to the Government of Madras before June 30, 1910, so that the balance shown in the accounts is only Rs.669-1-6. Subsequent collections under the Scientific Officer Fund have permitted of an adjustment of the loan.

The Balance-sheet shows a credit balance of Rs.3,847-11-10, against Rs.2,875-6-4 at the close of the year 1908-9.

The question of the desirability of providing the Scientific Officer with a small laboratory, adjoining his present office, has come up for consideration. Estimates have been circulated, though not in detail. They show the following figures :—

First cost ...	Rs.2,500
Annual upkeep	„ 1,000,

and any details required will be furnished by Mr. Anstead,

In view of this new demand upon the resources of the Association, it is perhaps well to state here :

- (a) That the Reserve Fund amounts to Rs.2,000, of which Rs.1,000 is on fixed deposit and Rs.1,000 is in current account with bankers.

- (b) That rough estimates indicate that the normal income will only just about cover the normal expenditure, without this extra Rs.1,000 per year required for the upkeep of a laboratory.

S.I. Planters' Benevolent Fund.—This may be said to have been established only tentatively last year, as the approval and actual support of most of the District Planters' Associations had yet to be obtained. As time passed unanimity of opinion was manifested, and at the close of the Association's financial year (June 30, 1910) the fund stood at Rs.2,247-7-0, subscriptions and donations having totalled Rs.2,269, and expenses (for printing) Rs.21-9-0.

It may be stated that by the 20th July the amount of gross collections had been raised to Rs.3,644, and by the 31st idem to Rs.4,469.

Authority is now required for the opening of a special banking account and a separate set of books for this Fund.

Mention may be made here of the fact that Mr. Abbott, Proprietor of the *Indian Planters' Gazette*, made an appeal to the planting community of Southern India on behalf of the widow and children of a deceased planter, Mr. Vipand. The response was prompt, and various donations received were remitted to Mr. Abbott and duly acknowledged in the columns of the *I. P. G.* They were not passed through the Association's books.

Your Secretary has only to add that he places his resignation at your disposal.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—I do not intend to take up your time with a long address, but it has been the custom in the past for the Chairman to touch on the state and prospects of the various branches of our Industry, which I will do as briefly and concisely as possible.

I should like first of all to congratulate the Association on having had the benefit of Mr. Hamilton's services as Planting Member on the Madras Legislative Council, and I personally wish to thank him for all the trouble he has taken over U.P.A.S.I. affairs as well as several matters in connection with my own District and particularly the Theni Bridge.

With a view to getting as accurate information as possible, I sent out a circular letter to the Honorary Secretaries of District Associations asking them for acreage, crop and labour figures, and I have to thank them for the way they have met me in their prompt answers on such short notice, and although I know many of the figures

are only approximate they have been most useful and given a very fair idea of the prospects of the Coffee, Tea and Rubber Industries for the present season.

Produce Exhibited.—With a view to infusing a little more interest into our Meeting this year, I proposed that samples of our produce might be brought for Exhibition, and I am glad to say it has met with general approval and we have some interesting samples of Coffee, Tea and Rubber, which will be on view during the week at the Association office.

As we cannot spare much time during the Meeting hours, I propose that we fix Wednesday and Thursday morning at 8 o'clock for examining and discussing the various Exhibits at the U.P.A.S. I. office. Mr. Anstead has also a collection of leguminous plants, specimens of blights, pests, etc., which I am sure will be most interesting and instructive. Mr. Hamilton has also very kindly brought with him a collection, showing the types of leaves of Coffee Hybrids and Manihot Rubber varieties, which will be exhibited at the same time. Those interested in these two subjects should make a point of examining this collection.

Coffee.—I have no figures to go on regarding acreage and crop, and if my remarks on this subject are of the briefest it is because I have no experience of Coffee and know little or nothing about it. Prospects for the current year, I gather, taken all over are fair. Prices though lower than we could wish for are steady, but prices for the higher grades show a falling off. I am not of course prepared to say whether the falling off is due to want of demand for these qualities or whether it is due to deterioration in the quality. As producers of high grade coffee it behoves East Indian planters to investigate the matter. The proposed Coffee Cess will come up for discussion during the meeting, and I hope some definite conclusion will be arrived at.

Tea.—From the returns received I find this Association represents roughly about 41,599 acres of Tea.

Tea in South India has perhaps never been in a sounder condition, but this is just the time when we want to be on our guard, and lay aside something against a rainy day. During times of prosperity there is always the temptation to increase the area, and we have a very serious rival in the shape of Java, and I can assure you the matter of over-production is by no means to be ignored and no opportunity should be missed to guard against this contingency.

One direction in which we can help ourselves, and one which I would strongly recommend to this Meeting, is the manufacture of Green Teas, for which Southern India is particularly suitable.

Another way in which we may improve the position is to press for the opening of Colombo to Indian Teas free of duty and making it reciprocal.

Both these matters will come before this Meeting, and I trust that when the latter is discussed the action of the Government of India in allowing Ceylon Tobacco free into Travancore will not be passed over. I believe that if the advantage we ask for is made reciprocal, Ceylon will back us up and it would be of mutual value to both.

Rubber.—We have now some 29,546 acres under Rubber in Southern India and some of the early planting is reaching the paying stage, and from the returns and results already realised there is not the slightest doubt that the Rubber in Southern India has a very bright future.

The estimated crop for the current year from Southern India will be roughly about 179,400 lbs., and the cost of production will compare very favourably with Ceylon and the Straits, but there are one or two great advantages we have over these other countries, and the chief is our labour supply. Now that the tapping stage is reached, I think our labour troubles are diminishing. I am now speaking for Travancore and Cochin, as we find that there is a great deal of better class local labour coming in, which will take up tapping, whereas it would not touch the ordinary weeding or new clearing work which has been such a severe test on our labour supplies during the last few years.

The other matter I would mention, and which I think is a most important one from a financial point of view, is the low and reasonable Capital cost per acre, nearly all our Companies stand in at. It may be that we were not in the position to demand the exorbitant prices that have been put on Rubber elsewhere, but we will certainly reap the benefit of it later on. As far as one can see, present prices are likely to hold for some considerable time yet, but the time will come when things must descend to a more healthy level, and then we are going to have trouble. Over-Capitalised Companies and poor Estates, of which there are no doubt many, will have to go to the wall, the Public who have gone absolutely mad on Rubber without knowing or caring what they are buying so long as it was Rubber shares, are the people who are going to suffer.

I would simply throw this out as a warning to Investors to beware of Over-Capitalised Companies and even shares in first class Companies which stand at a high premium. With the present high prices they may be all right, but as I said before we must look ahead. The Rubber Exhibition at Home next year will come before the Meeting later on, and I hope Southern India will do something towards sending an Exhibit.

We have also some interesting points on cultivation to discuss, and also a proposition regarding the use we are going to make of the large and ever increasing quantity of seed which can be collected annually and which is far in excess of what will be wanted for planting purposes.

Cinchona.—The market for this is very low at present, and extensions in this branch are practically at a stand-still.

Pepper.—This particular branch of our Industry has had a considerable amount of attention from our Scientific Officer, and we are very much indebted to Government for sending Mr. McRae down to investigate the Pepper Vine disease, and after all the trouble that has been taken it is most disappointing to find that absolutely nothing has been done by Planters to carry out the simple experiments recommended.

In the face of the discussion that took place on this subject as far back as 1904, when it was thought necessary to go to the expense of getting an expert out from Home, which it was estimated would probably cost about £1,000, towards which the U. P. A. S. I. were then prepared to contribute Rs.1,000, the excuse now given that Planters are unable to carry out the experiments on account of the expense seems rather a feeble one.

A circular containing some three or four questions was circulated to collect certain information Mr. McRae wanted, to which only 3 replies were received.

Cardamoms.—Prospects here are also fair, but I have no definite figures as to acreage and crop.

* I do not require to take up your time by referring to work done during the year, as our Secretary's report which you have already heard has been most explicit, but there are one or two matters which will come before us, which I would like to touch on as briefly as possible.

The first and I think the most important item is a Laboratory for our Scientific Officer, and I fully believe it will have the support it deserves. This matter will be put before you in detail by Mr. Anstead, and I think what he asks for is most reasonable. The premises which have been taken up temporarily, adjoining our new Office, are most suitable in every way, and I need hardly point out that it will be a great advantage to have our own Laboratory, and I feel quite certain it will cost no more, and possibly less, than it would have cost us to rent a room in the Mysore Government Laboratory even had it been available.

The Annual Upkeep Mr. Anstead puts down at Rs.1,000 and the the initial cost of fitting up the Laboratory at Rs.2,500. During the interval Mr. Pittock has very kindly put the use of his own private Laboratory at Mr. Anstead's disposal, for which I will later ask you to accord him a hearty vote of thanks.

. As regards the work of our Scientific Officer, I think you will agree with me that he has had a strenuous year and covered a lot

of ground. He has taken a keen interest in all branches of our Industry, and has I know a great deal of useful matter and information to lay before this Meeting.

Now that we have got our Scientific Officer, we want to make all the use we can of him, and it would be very short-sighted policy, after the heavy expenditure we have already gone to in the matter, to grudge the small sum now asked for towards the Laboratory, as without it we cannot get the full value of Mr. Anstead's services. Money spent in this direction will all come back to us, with liberal interest, in the shape of useful information and results, which we cannot otherwise hope to get. I trust delegates have come prepared to find the necessary funds and that the Laboratory will shortly be an accomplished fact.

Planters' Chronicle.—This has now become a weekly paper and I am sure is going to prove a most useful Journal of Reference, but I think very few of us realise the great strain this has thrown on our Secretary. I would urge every planter to order the bound volume in future, as it must be remembered that reference will be continually made to back numbers by Mr. Anstead in reply to various queries, and if these are not available, the utility of the *Chronicle* disappears altogether.

Planters' Benevolent Fund.—This has not been taken up as strongly as I had hoped, though during the last week or two, it has shown some improvement in the way of subscriptions, and I am glad to be able to report the promise of Rs.500 from Mr. Acworth, a former Chairman of this Association and Planting Member, and that a similar amount has been paid in by Mr. James Chisholm through the Coorg Association. I think we have now got enough to enable us to go ahead and push the scheme more than had been done during the past year. There are one or two points in the rules which I think want revision, and we must certainly have an Executive Committee to manage the Fund, as I am afraid the entire Council of the U. P. A. would be too unwieldy and lead to a great deal of delay and unnecessary correspondence.

Theni Bridge.—After years of weary waiting and disappointment, we are again assured that this long looked for Bridge will be started without delay. I predicted once before that it would be built and that we could remove it from our Agenda, but it still remains, though I hope this time it really will be taken in hand. The correspondence will come before the Meeting in due course, and if it is considered satisfactory, there will be no necessity for the deputation to His Excellency the Governor of Madras which was proposed by the District Associations interested.

Labour Matters.—There will no doubt be some discussion under this heading, though perhaps conditions have been rather easier this year.

Although we cannot object to emigration, I think it wants looking into and something should be done to protect South Indian Planters and Maistries from suffering through their already advanced labour being enticed off to the Straits and elsewhere by unscrupulous Agents who hang round with money to waylay coolies starting for our Estates, often under the cloak of Government help.

Accounts.—The Accounts have been laid on the table and as regards the estimated and actual expenditure, I think our Secretary is to be congratulated on the result, though at the same time I would point out to District Associations that the actual balance carried forward is only Rs.669-1-6 plus Rs.409-14-0 advanced to and since recovered from the Scientific Officer's Fund, making a total of Rs.1,078-15-6 in all.

It has been proposed that we might draw on our Reserve Fund towards the expenses of equipping and starting the Laboratory.

Well, Gentlemen, I don't want to build up a large reserve, but I trust the funds for the Laboratory, amounting to Rs.2,500 as per Mr. Anstead's estimate, will be raised without our having to draw on our Reserve this year. The upkeep for the current year will be very little, as it will take some months to get the necessary instruments out for Home.

Our expenses as regards our Scientific Officer's scheme are bound to increase if we are to get full value from Mr. Anstead's services, and I think we should keep our reserve untouched for the present, if we can. However, this is a matter which will come up under the heading of Finance.

I am afraid I have taken up a great deal of your time, and in closing would like to refer very briefly to the management of our District Associations. From the returns I have received, I find in some districts large acreages standing out, which is not right and shows great want of combination.

The most common excuse is that the Association is of no use to them and they have never got any good out of it, and another favourite reply is that it is a One Horse Show and is run by the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary.

As to the former we are now in a position to flatly contradict it, as although in the past some Planters may not have derived any direct benefit, now that we have our Scientific Officer and I hope will also shortly have our own Laboratory, two things we have been clamouring for, for years, that excuse can no longer be made. I know there are some Planters who imagine they know everything and fancy they have nothing more to learn, and these we are better without, but there are many others who quite recognise the value of our Scientific branch and the information given in the weekly

Chronicle, and I hope these will now come in and help to strengthen the Association and add to the funds require to make it a success.

As regards the latter excuse, I would ask Planters to remember that the post of Secretary or Chairman of a District Association is not always a bed of roses, and very often is a thankless job.

If a man is keen, unless he is very tactful he is accused of running the show, and if he is slack nothing is done, then Planters rightly turn round and say the Association is no use. I hope this coming year will see many new members added to District Associations, and we have to welcome to this Meeting a delegate from a new District represented by Cochin and North Travancore Association, just lately formed.

In closing, I wish personally to thank Mr. Ormerod, for the great help and assistance he has given me during the year; he has had a very heavy year's work, and the correspondence has increased tremendously, principally due to the Scientific department and the *Chronicle*.

Work of the Planting Member.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now I will ask the Hon'ble Mr. Hamilton to give us a short report of his work as Planting Member of Council.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON, who rose amidst cheers, made the following speech:—

SIR,—I had rather hoped to get off this portion of my duties, as there is nothing to report beyond what has already appeared in the *Chronicle*, or matters which I knew beforehand must certainly be referred to in the Annual Report. However, as you insist on my justifying my official existence by speaking on this occasion, I obey. The work put into my hands during the past year has not been heavy. It consisted of:—

The Theni bridge,
Anamalai leases,
Anamalai hospital,
Cinchona purchases by Government,
Coffee Cess,

but some of these not depending on one department only, and some of the others being of very long standing, and for other reasons which I shall refer to later, a good deal of persistence was needed. Fortunately, it happened that I had some leisure, and I was able to do a certain amount of worrying during the whole of which my reception by every one was all that could be desired, though I gave a great deal of trouble. There is no need to mention any names, but you may believe that we are sure of a fair hearing if we have any respectable sort of case, but it

must be made certain that it will be respectable before we send it up. One thing I do wish to put to the Association most emphatically, and hope it will be borne in mind very carefully, *viz.*, that in any matter on which there is reason to believe that the Planting Member's information is not absolutely perfect, it is essential for success to get up the case properly and give the fullest information, both as to what you want and as to arguments justifying your demands.

It is worse than useless sending up a bald resolution demanding something, either through me or through the office. You must not only say why you want anything, but also why you consider that you deserve it, or at any rate prove that your proposals cost nothing and do no harm. I say "worse than useless," because, if a request is refused even if only for want of a good reason being shown for granting it, you have that refusal on record against you, and the matter may never be reopened.

There were two matters which gave me a good deal of trouble this year. In one, a local Association put me on the track of a certain matter direct, and as it did not affect any one else, I took it up without demanding instructions from the Executive. No one could tell me where to go or what to do, and it took two months' intermittent worrying to get through. Even then I never found what I was looking for, but owing to the general trouble created by my search, the wheels started again and the thing went on. Had those two months' leisure not been available, and they will not be generally, there would have been a failure or a big delay, because the spade work had been incompletely done or practically left undone.

In another matter affecting three or more Districts, the Executive of one Association has hustled me most energetically; when I called for certain information, that particular Association supplied it after a time, but the others do not seem able to collect their share from members, so the matter is hung up. Failures like that discredit me in my work and jeopardise your interests. There has always been far too much of indifference on the part of planters. It is quite possible for slackness on the part of a small number to keep back the work of the U. P. A. I can assure you that the Secretary does not call for statistics for his own amusement, and it is not always possible to give full information to every member of all Associations as to why they are desired, but they are needed, and I hope we shall find less and less delay in furnishing them as we go along. The Planting Member, in particular, must be able to answer questions put to him, which are often necessary in an enquiry, and it is impossible for any one planter to know the conditions and needs of every district and product without general help.

There are no unofficial communications to make, but as subjects come up on the agenda I shall be very glad if I can give any information.

Scientific Officer's Report.

14TH MAY, 1909—30TH JUNE, 1910.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I will now ask Mr. Anstead, our Scientific Officer, to give us his report.

MR. R. D. ANSTEAD, B.A., read his report as follows:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to present to you a Report upon my first year's work as Planting Expert, and Scientific Officer of the U. P. A. S. I.

In this Report I do not propose to say anything about the various insect and fungoid pests to which my attention has been called during the year; with your permission I will deal with these under their separate headings on the Agenda Paper.

OFFICE AND CORRESPONDENCE.

An office was early in the year established for me in conjunction with the offices of the U. P. A. S. I. in Bangalore, and the upkeep of this, with my establishment, consisting of a writer and peon, is met by a contribution from the Government of Madras.

Office work during the period under review has increased rapidly, and the amount of correspondence is large, as may be judged from the fact that during this year, 1910, up to the end of June, 217 letters have been dealt with. The majority of these letters have been from planters asking for advice about manuring, cultivation, pests, &c., &c., and have been answered personally. Though this correspondence takes up a large amount of my time, and entails a great deal of work, I welcome it as a sign that I am getting into touch with individual planters, and have been of some little use to them during the year.

THE PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.

I have contributed regularly to the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle*, which has from the beginning of this year been made a weekly. For this publication I have written, during the official year, 32 articles, and 50 notes, as well as miscellaneous contributions. I hope to use it in the future, more and more as a medium of communication with planters, and to answer in its pages many of the questions asked in the correspondence, especially when these questions are of general interest. I also hope to use it as a running progress report of the work carried out in the office, and the field.

In my articles I have attempted not only to give advice about points of general interest which have been submitted to me, or which I have noticed, during my tours, required attention, but also to keep planters informed of what is going on at Agricultural Stations, and Departments interested in the same crops in other parts of the world, and of discoveries and advice of well known experts.

The U. P. A. receive by exchange, and otherwise, a large number of papers and periodicals which the individual planter either

has not access to, or has not time to read, and it appeared to me to be plainly my duty to summarise, and comment upon where necessary, such points in these publications as were of interest to the planters of Southern India.

HERBARIUM AND COLLECTIONS.

A beginning has been made with a herbarium of the Leguminous Plants which occur in the different planting districts, with the object of determining which of these can be used as cover crops, and green dressings, and a few of the most promising are already under trial on several estates.

I propose to supply each Planters' Association with a set of herbarium specimens of the plants suitable for green dressings which occur in its own district in the first place, and later on those in other districts, so that the members may be able to recognise the plants, which it is difficult to do from Botanical names alone. This work will necessarily take time, but 40 sheets have already been prepared for my office collection, and two small lots of duplicates, comprising 17 sheets, have been sent out, one to the Wynaad Planters' Association, and one to the Coorg Planters' Association.

I shall be glad of help from individual planters in this work, both by the receipt of specimens, and especially of local names of plants, in the different districts. During this meeting I shall exhibit the collection which has already been made at the office of the U. P. A. S. I., 25, South Parade.

A Microscope and collecting apparatus, to be supplied by the Government of Madras, are on order, but have not yet been received. When these arrive I shall be in a position to investigate plant diseases apart from their mere field appearance. I hope to gradually get together a working collection of insects and fungi representing the pests usually met with, for reference at these meetings, and for the use of planters who visit Bangalore from time to time, so that the Offices of the U. P. A. S. I. may in time become a Bureau of Information about plant diseases and pests.

TOURS.

Since 14th May 1909, the day on which I arrived in Bangalore and assumed charge of my duties, I have attempted to see as many of the planting districts, represented by the U. P. A. S. I., as possible, and I have spent the majority of my time in touring. The following districts have been visited, in the order given :—Anamalais, Nilgiris, Shevaroy, North Mysore, South Mysore, Wynaad, Coorg, South Travancore, Cochin, Mundakayam, Central Travancore, and the Shevaroy and Nilgiris for the second time.

These tours have necessitated my travelling something like 4,800 miles by rail, and 1,800 miles by road.

In first passing through the districts my object was to see as many planters as possible, and to get an idea of the general conditions, the difficulties, the pests, and what had and had not

been done. All the tours were necessarily made comparatively rapidly, and no detailed work could be done in the time at my disposal. In one instance only, when I visited the Wynaad, in conjunction with Mr. McRae, then Assistant Mycologist at Pusa, to investigate the Pepper Vine disease, was any detailed work undertaken. The study of diseases may necessitate a lengthy stay in, and repeated visits to, the affected districts.

During some of the tours I was able to attend meetings of the Planters' Associations, and special meetings arranged for me, and on these occasions I delivered lectures, twelve in all.

One of the things which has struck me most as a result of my journeys, is the wide way in which the various districts differ in respect to soil and climate, and the way in which each district seems to have its own particular diseases.

While in one district Coffee shade may be light, in another it must be dense on account of the prevalence of Borer; while in one district Tea prunings must be burned as soon as cut on account of Mosquito Blight, in another this pest is unknown, and the prunings may be buried at leisure; while in one district Pará is the best Rubber to grow, in another it is waste of time trying to grow it, while Ceará flourishes; while in one district *Crotalaria striata* is an excellent cover crop, in another it will not grow at all, and in yet another it grows too big. The result is that what is good planting policy in one district, is the reverse in another, and no general advice can be given, and no hard and fast rules laid down: each district must be considered in relation to its own particular problems and conditions, and each could find more than enough work to keep a Scientific Officer fully occupied during the year.

MANURING AND EXPERIMENT PLOTS.

The question of manuring has for some time past been an important one for Coffee planters, and it is rapidly becoming important for Tea planters, both to increase the yield and to combat disease. The time will come when Rubber planters will also have to turn their attention to manuring, and the relation of fertilisers to latex yield is a problem which needs working out.

Manuring should be more systematic than it often is at present. It appears to me that manures are too often applied in a haphazard way, fertilisers applied in any one year having little relation to those applied during previous years. A manurial scheme for the estate should be drawn up, covering a period of years, and be carefully carried out, and in this scheme Lime should find a place more frequently than it does at present.

Whether manuring has any direct effect upon the quality of Coffee and Tea is an open question, which only systematic manuring can answer.

The basis of any manurial scheme should be a soil analysis which shows among other things the amount of plant food, Potash,

Phosphoric Acid, and Nitrogen, in an available form. Though such an analysis cannot tell us exactly the best manure to apply for any crop, it indicates clearly the general lines which should be followed. Thus a soil analysis, for example, at once shows whether lime is needed to ensure the best results from the application of mineral fertilisers, and whether basic, or acid, fertilisers should be used.

The only way in which the best manurial treatment for any given soil, and crop, can be determined is by direct experiment, and such experiments are not conducted, at present, in a sufficiently systematic way.

In the absence of Experiment Stations, experimental work must be carried out on the estates themselves, and it is unpopular for several reasons.

In the first place the results of field experiments are very difficult to interpret. The growth of plants is influenced by so many factors; temperature, water supply, food supply, and in the case of Coffee especially, the seasonal factor has a tremendous influence. Small variations in any of these conditions may lead to very marked differences in results. The soil is a very complex mineral mixture, with very varying mechanical properties, and also a teeming microscopical flora and fauna which is yearly being discovered to be of the utmost importance to the crop.

These difficulties may be overcome to a great extent by making the experiments as simple as possible, and designing them as far as possible to answer one question at a time. Complicated manurial experiments, with quantities of fertilisers which are in any case unpractical, have been shown to be failures in the past, and have no doubt tended to make this work on the estates unpopular. Experiments designed, however, to test the benefits of cover crops as compared with a system of clean weeding; the application of mineral fertilisers before or after the monsoon; the possible advantage of Basic Superphosphate over ordinary Superphosphate on Southern Indian soils; the advantages and disadvantages of forking Coffee, and of burying Tea prunings; the best time to tap Rubber, the best system and knife to use: these and many similar experiments could be, and should be, worked out in a systematic way.

In the second place field experiments on estates are difficult to carry out, because to ensure a correct answer to any question asked of the soil being obtained, each experiment must extend over a number of years, and be accurately conducted. Here there is a difficulty of labour, and time required for superintendence. Managers and owners go home periodically, and the estate during their absence is looked after by a writer, or a neighbour, and experiments are apt to be abandoned.

This is a difficulty not so easily overcome, but I would suggest that in each district definite experiments should be begun in definite places, and controlled by the planting community of the district. It often happens that I am offered a field on an estate, to try experiments, and I feel sure that such offers would be made to the District Planters' Associations,

Neither time nor your patience will allow me to discuss a scheme in this report, but I hope that it will be considered at this meeting, and I would suggest that a committee be appointed to elaborate some detached practical scheme to lay before the various Planters' Associations. Better results would be secured from experiments conducted at definite places, where their continuity could be assured, than are at present obtained from numerous little experiments which are being conducted, many of them at my suggestion, on estates here, there, and everywhere; experiments which are constantly breaking down because some individual planter, though his spirit is willing enough, has too much other work to do to look after them.

AGRICULTURE AT ANNUAL MEETINGS.

I would respectfully suggest that this Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. should devote more time to the discussion of actual Agricultural Problems. There are many important questions discussed from time to time in a desultory way through the medium of the Press. I need only mention Green Dressings *versus* Clean Weeding, and the Bug in the Nilgiris, on both of which subjects many letters have appeared during the past twelve months.

If one or two subjects like this were taken up each year, and papers read at this meeting by planters, they could be thrashed out in a much more satisfactory way than they are in the correspondence columns of a newspaper. I think that this is of particular importance to Rubber planters, for at present comparatively little is known about Rubber cultivation anywhere, and it cannot be too freely discussed. A Conference such as that held a little while ago in the Straits is of immense value, and brings together a lot of information gleaned from personal experience in the field. Too much should not be left to officials. This is a *Planters'* Association, and I should like to see planters taking a very active part at the annual meeting in agricultural discussions.

In conclusion I beg to tender my thanks to the planters for their courtesy in electing me an honorary member of their respective Associations, and to the Secretaries of these Associations, and the numerous individuals from whom I have received such bountiful welcome, and hospitality, during my tours; and I should also like to record my grateful appreciation of the kindly assistance which I have received during the year from the Secretary of the United Association.

Scientific Officer's Programme.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON :—Gentlemen, a matter has been informally settled this morning which you should now proceed to put in order at the open meeting. I therefore beg to propose :—

That Messrs. Pittock, Mead, Murphy and Anstead be appointed a Sub-Committee to draw up a programme for the Scientific Officer for 1910-11.

MR. C. H. BROCK (Anamalais) seconded the motion, which was carried,

Experiment Plots.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen,—With reference to Mr. Anstead's report, which I think you will agree with me opens a very large field for discussion, I think his proposal to form a committee to draw up some scheme to place before District Associations is a very good one. I mean a scheme with reference to experimental plot manuring. I think we may have a committee appointed to go into the matter and to report on Thursday on some sort of feasible scheme.

MR. DANVERS (North Mysore): I propose that this small committee to draw up the scheme of experimental manuring be formed with Mr. Anstead, the committee to consist of Messrs. Tipping, Murphy, Danvers, Malcolm, Barber, and Pittock:—

MR. BROCK seconded the motion.

THE CHIRMAN: Gentlemen, it has has been proposed by Mr. Danvers and seconded by Mr. Brock:—

That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to draw up a scheme regarding experimental manuring to lay before District Associations and to report the result on Thursday morning:—Messrs. Tipping, Murphy, Danvers, Malcolm, Barber, Pittock, and Anstead.

I put the resolution to the meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cinchona.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next item on our agenda is Cinchona. I think Mr. Brock has something to say on the subject.

MR. BROCK addressed the Conference as follows:—

Gentlemen:—As you know, this Association last year supported the Anamalai Planters' Association's proposal to ask Government to fix a minimum price of one anna per unit for the purchase of cinchona bark from planters in India. To this request the Government of Madras has given a curt refusal. However, our Planting Member interested himself in this matter and did all he could to persuade Government to go into the matter again, and the result of his endeavours on our behalf has made it appear possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement, not from the point of view of fostering the cinchona industry, which savours too much of Protection to be acceptable by those who are serving under a Liberal Government, but from a purely businesslike and commercial point of view. From private information I believe that Government are still holding to their refusal and do not at all appear inclined to take the matter up even from this commercial point of view. It seems to me, Sir, that the action of Government is extremely contradictory. On the one hand one hears of Malaria Conferences, expensive enquiries into the means of suppressing and fighting against malaria, and the appointment of special and expensive officials to carry out the various schemes put forward to relieve India from this deeply rooted disease. On the other hand,

we have the Cinchona Department practically speculating with the only drug known to be of any real help in the prevention and cure of malaria. The policy of the Cinchona Department would appear to be:—"Sufficient for the day is the profit thereof, and let the morrow provide for its own losses." The Director of that Department points out that if a one-anna minimum had been in vogue for the past two years it would have cost him Rs.90,000 more to buy his bark than it actually did. What would it matter if it did? Is £6,000, spread over two years, such a terrible outlay for Government, as compared to the incalculable value of being certain that an adequate supply of bark will be maintained in the country, ready for all emergencies and proof against all foreign operations? This sum, which is looked on as a loss, is barely half of the huge profit that the Government are getting from their Factory, which averaged for the three years 1906-7 to 1908-9 about Rs.1.09,000 per annum. Is it not only just and right that in order to ensure the supply of cheap quinine in the country for an indefinite period, half of the profits of the Quinine Factory should be used for this purpose? And yet such a proposal is apparently vetoed by the Director, as a useless expense, because the exports from Java this year are heavier than they were last year, so that it looks as if low prices for bark would continue! Such sanguine expectations based on immediate visible supply might be expected from, say, the Director of a Company, but should not be accepted by the permanent trustees of the health of the country.

In making these remarks I do not wish to belittle in any way the principles of State earnings, as the better the profits that the undertakings of Government produce, the less are the burdens that fall on the tax-payers. Still, it is better to be penny wise than pound foolish, and, if the price of quinine were to rise to the figure at which it stood ten or twelve years ago, there would only be two courses open for the Cinchona Department to adopt, namely, either to produce quinine at a considerable loss, which would be an additional and unwarrantable burden to the tax-payer, or to raise the retail price of quinine, which would mean that the malaria-stricken ryot would not be able to buy it. It is in Government's power to remove even the remotest possibility of either of these evils by accepting the equitable proposals suggested by Mr. Hodgson, which you have all read, and which I have embodied in the Resolution that I am placing before you.

Before leaving this subject there is still one point I should like to draw your attention to. It is, I think, generally recognised that, for the good of the country and the people in it, it is always advisable to keep money, that can be earned by manual labour, in the country, so long as the main existing principles of the Indian Tariff are not violated in so doing. Now so long as the existing cinchona plantations continue to remain as such, there will always be a considerable amount of money earned by Indian labourers in maintaining the same and in collecting the bark. This means a certain amount of extra money available for the poorer class of ryots. Cinchona cultivation exhausts the soil, and to a great

extent renders it useless for the cultivation of any other of the chief economic products that planters go in for.

Now, if the existing cinchona plantations disappear, that land will be mostly abandoned, and there will be no more wage-earning work done within those areas, and the money, which, till then was earned in the country by those ryots who are mostly in need of it, will in future all go out of the country to benefit the Javanese. In other words, the money spent by the Indian ryot in purchasing his packet of quinine, instead of giving employment to his brother ryot, goes out of his native land, for the employment and profit of foreigners.

In conclusion, I beg to move the following Resolution :—

“That, whereas the cultivation of cinchona in India is rapidly disappearing, and consequently the supply of Quinine in India, which is so vitally important to the country, is becoming dependent upon bark grown in a foreign country, and whereas such a state of affairs is courting not only the possibility but the probability of a Quinine famine in India at any future time, this Association request the Government of Madras to fix a minimum price of one anna per unit for the purchase of their Bark from all such estates or groups of estates as are prepared on their part to at least maintain the effective areas of their existing Cinchona Plantations, and who guarantee to give Government the first offer of their bark at rates up to a maximum of two annas per unit.”

MR. E. F. BARBER, (Nilgiris):—I should like to second that resolution.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. C. E. ABBOTT (Wynaad) said that he wished to ask one question about the matter. In doing so he did not intend to give any offence to any neighbouring planters. Did Mr. Brock contend that Government should only buy bark from Indian planters? If there should be a sudden rise in the price of the bark it would result, as far as Wynaad and a good many parts of the Nilgiris were concerned, in all the Cinchona bark that happened to be growing being cut down and scrubbed out and sent to the Government factory at once, at he believed, a price they could get for it in London. There would then come a time when the Government would not be much better off in regard to their supply and would have to go to Java or wherever else they could get the bark from. What the planters wanted was a promise from Government that they would encourage them to plant cinchona, which would enable them to supply the Government demand. If the Government offered to buy the bark in India they would immediately have what had happened to Travancore in regard to Tobacco.

MR. BARBER said that there was a guarantee that the existing estates would be maintained.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON said that in the course of his negotiations with members of Government, it was made perfectly

clear that no bark would be paid for at the increased rate except that which had been harvested on an estate which gave a guarantee to maintain a definite acreage, if not to increase it, for a certain period of years. The bark would not be available to the general public in any way. Each individual proprietor would have to guarantee to the satisfaction of Government that he would maintain his acreage and give a certain fixed amount of bark for so many years; and in fact a hint had been thrown out that they would have also to produce better bark than they did now.

MR. BROCK said that Government would have at some extra expense to maintain a certain amount of cinchona cultivation in the country in case of any emergency happening, like war or a combination of Java planters against India. The suggestion was that Government should do so by making certain definite contracts with certain estates who cultivated cinchona that they would continue to cultivate cinchona and would supply it to them.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The resolution proposed by Mr. Brock was put in open meeting, and carried.

Pepper Vine Disease.

The CHAIRMAN : The next subject on the agenda is "Pepper Vine disease." Has anyone got anything to say?

MR. R. D. TIPPING (Coorg) : I have not anything in particular to say on the subject, but I think we cannot do better than follow our Scientific Officer's advice by curing the disease as soon as it appears. He says, "hit it before it is too strong." We are doing so in Coorg. It is just appearing there, and we are trying to follow his advice in dealing with it. I have been told that some of the Wynaad Planters find it too expensive to carry out this suggestion effectually. It will perhaps be useful if they will tell us what it will cost to deal with this disease. Over and above this, there will be the expense which would result from the loss of vines, but we must look upon it as inevitable.

MR. BERNARD MALCOLM said that he was not aware where Mr. Aunstead received his information from, that Wynaad Planters could not carry out the experiment on the score of expenditure. He thought it was because they could not dig up the number of vines that were wanted for the work. He thought also that there was a feeling amongst them that if the experiments were not carried out under their immediate supervision they would be valueless. In one or two instances that had influenced men in not carrying out the experiments. In one instance that he knew he had heard that the man who was asked to carry out the experiment did not think it worth while to do so because it was too late, because his proprietors had been agitating for the services of a pepper expert for a long time and he thought that the property did not justify the undertaking of the experiments in its then condition. As regards the question as to what the experiment would cost he

regretted he could not give them any information, because it was a matter which he had not gone into.

MR. TIPPING: I think that this subject might be left for future information. Let us get as much information on the subject as we can. As there is no one prepared at present to move a resolution on the subject, I think it is not necessary to deal with it now. It is a matter in the hands of our Scientific Officer, and it is our interest to carry out what he says. Let us follow up the subject and bring as much reliable information to the Conference as we can get hold of during the year.

MR. ANSTEAD:—Gentlemen,—The number of vines that was asked for by Mr. McRae to experiment with was 400, divided into three different lots, two of 100 each and one of 200. As this seems to be too many, we may have smaller lots. The only thing to be borne in mind is, the smaller the number of vines used the more careful must you be about the correctness of your results; for the larger the number the more you remove the experimental error. As to the actual expense I have failed to see why it should cost so much. I must point out, though it might have been a mistake, that the Wynaad, writing to the U.P.A., gave the reason why they could not go on with it as that it was too expensive. The actual expense comes in case lime and copper sulphate are used, as a certain amount of manure must be used. Mr. McRae suggested that each vine should have a trench dug round it. Supposing we reduce the numbers, it ought not to cost much to carry out the experiment. I am glad to find since coming here to this meeting that experiments are going to be carried out in Coorg; I think they have already been arranged. May I ask—if this is the case that our Wynaad friends write in to the U.P.A. giving us the history of what they are doing, because I am very anxious to send that on to the Government to show to them that we are actually doing something. What is going to happen is that Dr. Butler, the Imperial Mycologist, will call upon me for a report on what we have done. It is also part of his work during the year. It will have to be embodied in his report to the Government of India. I am anxious that the U.P.A. should not be left in the position to say that we have done nothing. If these experiments are going to be carried out, I think that we should have information about them.

In regard to Coorg, when I was up there I found that the disease was present in Coorg, especially on the cultivation of the ryots. Strictly speaking, that does not come within my jurisdiction; but at Mr. Tipping's suggestion I interviewed the Commissioner, Mr. Harris, who said he would tell the ryots all he knew if I would help him. I sent round instructions, which I understand he has printed in the *Official Gazette*. That is satisfactory.

I think that we may come to the conclusion that the number of vines may be reduced to 50; only that means very careful supervision.

MR. ABBOTT,—I will assure Mr. Anstead that, as long as I am Secretary of my Association, any information he requires will be promptly sent. I do not think we ought to leave the subject without thanking Mr. Anstead and Mr. McRae for the trouble they have taken in the matter. I can only regret that I have no information to offer on the subject now, but I hope to let Mr. Anstead have it later. I propose that we thank Mr. Anstead and Mr. McRae for all the trouble they have taken.

MR. TIPPING seconded the proposal.

The CHAIRMAN:—Gentlemen,—The resolution before the meeting, proposed by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Mr. Tipping, is :

“That the very hearty thanks of this Association be given to the Government of India for lending the services of Mr. McRae, the Officiating Imperial Mycologist, to investigate the Pepper Vine disease, and to Mr. McRae and Mr. Anstead for all the trouble they have taken in their investigation.”

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN:—Gentlemen, there are one or two subjects which we have deleted from the agenda paper this year, so that they need not be carried forward. One of these is, “Liquor Shops in the Vicinity of Estates.”

The King Edward Memorial.

The next item on the agenda is the King Edward Memorial. Mr. Hamilton has something to say about it :

The Hon'ble Mr. HAMILTON said:—Sir,—You have already at the opening of this Meeting given expression to our feelings to show our sense of the loss that our Empire has sustained by the death of King Edward ; and it now falls to me to ask you if possible to give me instructions as regards the action to be taken towards perpetuating his memory. As you know, I have been made a member, and some other planters also, I understand, have been made members of the Madras Committee. Since my arrival in Bangalore I have been further honoured by an invitation to join the All-India Memorial Committee. There can be no doubt that these Memorials are to the memory of one who should never be forgotten, and that our community is not one which would like to stand aloof while there are movements all over India to do honour to his name. Personally I have no doubt, with the record of his life still fresh in our memory, that we must feel that no more fitting Memorial, and none which would be more likely to appeal to his heart were he still with us, could be devised than the one of taking some steps to alleviate suffering, whether of man or beast. The Executive Committee of the Madras General Committee has determined to recommend a Hospital for Consumptives ; and I think that any institution of this kind must commend itself to us. What shape the All-India Memorial will take I have no idea. I do not believe that any proposal has been put forward—at any rate, I have not seen any in the papers. [Mr. Abbott

called attention to the fact that this Memorial is to take the form of an equestrian statue to be erected at Delhi.] But I hope that the community will soon let me know whether it is your wish that we should join both or only one. It is quite possible that the delegates to-day will not like to give a definite decision. They may prefer to consult those whom they represent here. It is not my intention, therefore, to move any definite Resolution on the subject now. Indeed, if any formal Resolution should be proposed it will be more fitting that you, Sir, should put it before us. All that I propose now is that we go into Committee to discuss the question in detail.

[IN COMMITTEE.]

MR. AYLMER MARTIN (Kanan Devan).—Gentlemen, I do not know if any of the other members is in the same position as myself in regard to this matter. I am on the Committee in the Ramnad District for raising a memorial to the late King-Emperor. I have subscribed as much as I can afford to that Committee for the purpose. I do not see my way to join in any other memorial. A portion of the subscription we raise goes to the All-India Committee, another portion to the Madras Committee, and some to the local memorial. I personally shall not be in a position to join in a Planters' memorial or to subscribe again through this Association to the All-India or to the Madras Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, you have all heard what Mr. Martin has just told us. I think we are all agreed that it is a thing which is very fitting and one which we will all like to subscribe to ; but, as Mr. Martin says, there have been previous lists going round.

MR. CHARLES DICKINS (Shevaroy).—I beg to add that I am also in the same position as Mr. Martin.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON.—I think that without delay we should pass the matter on to District Associations, so that action may be taken at once before men are tied by some local subscription which they would possibly rather give to the All-India Memorial.

MR. MALCOLM.—I do not understand whether Mr. Hamilton means the Associations to subscribe.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON.—I mean nothing. I only wish to ascertain the District Associations' instructions.

MR. J. J. MURPHY (Mundakayam).—I propose :

“That the matter of subscriptions to the King Edward Memorial be referred without delay to the District Associations.”

MR. W. G. LEAHY (Central Travancore).—I beg to second that.

[IN OPEN MEETING.]

Cattle Diseases.

The CHAIRMAN : While the resolution is being drawn up we might go on with “Cattle Diseases.” I think Mr. Martin has something to say on the subject,

MR. MARTIN: Not I, Sir. Mr. Tipping has something to say.

MR. TIPPING: With regard to this I have really no speech to make, but I will put a resolution before you which I think will give you an idea of what we really require in the matter. The proposition is

"That this Association expresses its appreciation of the steps taken by Government to mitigate rinderpest and anthrax by the appointment of Veterinary Assistants for inoculating animals against these diseases, and at the same time would suggest that measures should be taken for the destruction of the carcasses of animals which may die of infectious disease on the main roads."

I have no doubt, Gentlemen, that you all realise that the most valuable draft cattle which are used on the roads are left there when they die of disease and the people move on. When other cattle come and feed on the stuff left there, they are inoculated with the disease. As far as I can understand, at present no steps are taken for the removal of such cattle, and nothing is done to disinfect the halting stations where disease has been known to exist. So that this resolution I think will meet the question.

MR. MARTIN seconded the resolution, which was carried.

MR. MURPHY'S resolution in regard to the King's Memorial was also put to the meeting and carried.

The subject of Weights and Measures, which was the last on the agenda paper for the day, was adjourned to Thursday, and the Conference then rose for the day.

Tuesday, Second Day, August 2nd, 1910.

The Conference met to-day at 11-15 A. M.

Planters' Association of Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, we have a letter this morning from the Ceylon Planters' Association stating that they cannot send a delegate. The Secretary will read the letter.

The SECRETARY read the following letter :—

“ Please convey to your Chairman the hearty thanks of my Association for the kind letter of the 1st instant, inviting the attendance of a delegate from the Ceylon Planters' Assocn : to be present at your Annual General Meeting on 1st August.

“ At the Meeting of my Committee on 22nd instant, Mr Beachcroft was appointed to represent this Association, but owing to ill health he much regrets he is unable to do so.”

Legislation.

The CHAIRMAN : The first item on the agenda this morning is No. 10, Legislation.

THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR ACT.

Mr. ABBOTT said :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I rise to propose the Resolution of which I have given notice. It is this :—“ That this Association, in view of the unanimous refusal of those districts that have not hitherto adopted Act I of 1903 to accept it, and the refusal of the Government to give the amendments we ask for, considers that further discussion of the Act at these Meetings is useless.”

I am very glad to find that this is not considered a quarrelsome Resolution. I have been told by advocates of the Act that they will support the Resolution, even if they cannot support what I may say in proposing it. I will try to avoid saying anything that may prevent that support becoming unqualified. We cannot by this Resolution prevent—if we wished to—further discussion of the Act. But we can prevent its matter-of-course appearance on the agenda paper. If I may say it without offence, we can prevent such a surprise campaign as was started and carried through last year, and which caused a great deal of ill-feeling. We can ensure that if any delegate wishes to bring forward a Resolution about the Act, other Districts will have the opportunity of instructing their representatives. I was as much surprised when I heard of that sudden campaign as I was when I read some of the statements that were made in the course of it. As far as

Wynaad was concerned, I believed when I went Home that we had agreed to leave the subject alone. We had asked to have the Act withdrawn, and had been refused. Government had also refused to pass any of the amendments we had asked for. Those who liked the Act had it. Those who disliked it had to put up with it, so far as Wynaad and the Nilgiris were concerned.

It seemed improbable that any new districts were going to adopt the Act, and as it turned out they had no such intention. Speaking as one who derives his information from the Book of Proceedings, the way the subject came up strikes one as curious. You had appointed a Committee to report on our labour difficulties. You had their Report before you, and were asked to adopt it. Instead of even thanking them for their trouble, you rejected their Report and passed a Resolution which suggested the possibility of Government forcing the Act on all planters, whether they wanted it or not. You appear to have had a very full discussion. Any one who wanted to say anything in favour of the Act or against its opponents was allowed to speak two or three times in open Meeting. You had all the old stories about the objections that were made to Act XIII twenty-five years ago dug up. You even seem to have had my old nightmare, "the confidential communication," revived.

Now what planters thought of labour affairs a quarter of a century ago does not interest me in the least. Two things are certain; one, that those heroes of antiquity never asked for such an Act as has been passed; the second is that the vast majority of the present-day planters in South India will have nothing to do with it. As for confidential communications, from what I have read and been told, there seemed to be some renewed tendency to rely on them. So I would like to give you two samples, partly to show their unreliability, and partly because they answer a remark of Mr. Malcolm's last year, when, in opposition to a former statement of mine, he said that no pressure whatever had been used to get planters to adopt the Act. I was not in India at the time that my Association, by a majority of one vote, agreed to give the Act a trial for one year—for that is all it did and with various qualifications—so I cannot tell you all the confidences it received. But these two I know of. They are seven years old, and all the officials who made them have retired. One was a threat that if planters did not accept the Act, they need never ask Government for any assistance again. We were to have no grant for roads or anything else. The other was a promise in the form of a letter from H. E the Governor of Madras that if the Act was found unsuitable it would be withdrawn after a year's trial. Now as to the threat, Wynaad has been treated quite well by Government in the matter of roads, but no better than other Districts which repudiated the Act. As to the promise, it was not kept.

Now as to the Resolution passed, the result of this attempt at forcible conversion must have surprised the advocates of the Act. It had always been open to them to say that Districts which had

not adopted it were waiting till they understood its full advantages. But you have now had a clear declaration from all of them, polite in some cases, accompanied by imprecations in others—that they will not have the Act, and resent the idea of having it forced upon them by a two-thirds or any other majority of the U. P. A. S. I. When I find that hitherto stalwart supporter of the Act, my friend Mr. Brock, stating in his Annual Report that the Anamalais, “in common with most District Associations, entirely fails to see how Act I can possibly relieve the labour situation,” I can only say, like the sentimental Chinaman, “that make my poor heart laugh.” I said I would not go into details about the objectionable features of the Act, and I will not do so. But I would like to refer to a point that was much elaborated last year, which was that these objectionable clauses of the Act had never been put in force, and never will be. Well, if so, why were they included in the Act? Are we to be told that they were inserted merely as a blind to appease opposition? Nevertheless, some have been put in force. I can think of various reasons why nothing very dreadful has happened yet. But I need only mention one, and it is quite sufficient; it is because nobody has asked to have them enforced. Our maistries and coolies have not yet learned their advantages. We are still in the primitive stage. Mr. Danvers spoke last year of coolies with clever legal advisers in South Canara. When they find out what they can do under the Act, I believe that that, added to our other labour difficulties, will make existence almost unbearable.

That is all I have got to say. I shall be very glad if some supporter of the Act seconds me, if he does not see anything objectionable in what I have said.

MR. BARBER: Can I see the resolution?

[IN COMMITTEE.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you got a seconder?

MR. ABBOTT: I have got a conditional seconder—a Nilgiri Planter; he will second it if I leave out the reference to the Government.

MR. C. K. PITTOCK (South Mysore) I must ask Mr. Abbott also to add one word. My Association's attitude is that we are in favour of an Act based on Act I of 1903 being introduced into Mysore. We have not yet asked for the Act and I think we are in the position that we can say it will not be forced on us. Mr. Abbott uses the word “unanimous” I don't think that our Association can be included in that. We are not unanimous against the Act. If you would say “almost unanimous.” I shall have pleasure in voting for your resolution.

MR. ABBOTT:—Mr. Pittock says he has not asked for the Act.

MR. BARBER: I think South Mysore asked for it last year.

MR. DANVERS: Excuse me for a moment. Does this discussion refer also to getting information about the Act? I am anxious

rather to have a definite pronouncement from Government on the question of extradition. It is just possible that we might be driven to take the Act in the future, although at present we do not want it in North Mysore. We were told by Mr. Hodgson last year that the last clause of the Act relates to extradition. We have not received any definite pronouncement that we shall get extradition if we take the Act.

MR. ABBOTT: As for extradition, I know there is a vague notion that by adopting the Act we shall get extradition at once. You are not a bit better off by taking the Act in the matter of extradition than you were before. All planters in British territory can get extradition from Mysore under the Rendition Act, as there is a special clause to that effect in it. We cannot extradite coolies from Cochin and Travancore, as we have no extradition from Native territories. I was agreeably surprised to get a circular that the Madras Government has asked for instances of hardship under Act XIII of 1859.

MR. DANVERS: I have a resolution to propose with reference to extradition.

MR. ABBOTT: Could not that be made a separate motion? Nothing is barred at this Meeting. And extradition is on the agenda.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: The Act does not refer to extradition, but have you ever applied for an executive order under the Act?

MR. ABBOTT: Mr Ormerod will give you several instances of people who wanted extradition from Cochin, and they could not get it.

MR. MALCOLM: I do not think they have ever applied under that idea.

MR. ABBOTT: Have you ever tried it, Mr. Malcolm?

MR. MALCOLM: No. I do not quite understand Mr. Abbott's reason for wanting to stifle discussion on this Act any more than on any other Act. It seems to me that is what the resolution amounts to. Mr. Abbott said that it was a surprise matter last year. South Mysore brought up the question; otherwise, as Mr. Barber said, there would have been no discussion. Saying that the subject should not be brought up for discussion without notice does not seem right. We should either omit the matter from the agenda or pass the resolution, which seems to me on the face of it to stifle discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Abbott is simply affirming the views of the District Associations last year. We unanimously agreed that we did not want the Act.

MR. DANVERS: What Mr. Abbott says exactly emphasises what the Associations did last year. I do not see that it stifles discussion. If any Association wants to discuss it, it can give due notice. I must agree that it was a bit of surprise to me last

year. I had no conception that either South Mysore or North Mysore Association wanted the Act. It was a most distinct surprise, and we were quite unprepared.

MR. BARBER: I certainly understood that Mr. Danvers came with instructions to oppose the Act.

MR. DANVERS: Act I of 1903?

MR. PARSONS inquired whether any one of those opposed to the Act would tell them in what way it had been objectionable and how it had treated them badly. They were all there for interchange of their experiences and to consult with each other. Was there any objection to their telling the Conference in what way the Act had been objectionable?

MR. A. H. MEAD (Wynaad).—I shall be delighted to give you any information. As a large employer of labour I may say we shall be having trouble by giving advances to Maistries without any contract.

MR. PARSONS: The whole thing comes to the question of advances. You are going to risk it. I make it a rule never to advance to a maistry or cooly except when they arrive on the estate. If there were no advances, would you want the Act?

MR. MEAD: Provided there are coolies.

MR. DANVERS: The Commission distinctly came to the conclusion that advances were necessary. It was done 35 years ago. There is no question of eliminating advances.

MR. MARTIN: It seems to me, Sir, we are wandering a bit away from the point. We are not here to discuss whether advances are necessary or not. I understood Mr. Parsons wanted information from the members in the planting districts working under the Act as to their objections against the Act. These have all been very thoroughly threshed out in the Press, and also in the Book of Proceedings. Mr. Abbott's speeches in the past are very clear. It is open to Mr. Parsons to read them. We were not convinced by the arguments in favour of the Act, and gentlemen who liked the Act have not been convinced by those who are against it. We have to accept that position, and Mr. Parsons can make up his mind in one way or the other. Discussion as to the defects of the Act will be a waste of time at the present moment.

MR. PITROCK: I am going to ask Mr. Barber for his authority for the statement that South Mysore Planters' Association brought up the subject of the Act. Another gentleman said, "blame the South Mysore Association for bringing the question up without notice". I deny it. I want the authority for the statements on the part of those gentlemen.

MR. BARBER said that he had been under that impression. He would ask the gentleman who had asked him to bring forward the matter to come into the discussion. If he did so, he would bear him (Mr. Barber) out.

MR. BROCK: I think I asked for it.

MR. PITTOCK : You blamed South Mysore for bringing up the matter, so I understood it.

MR. BARBER : Not a bit. What I said was that the discussion was brought up at the wish of the Mysore Association.

MR. MARTIN drew attention to page 90 of last year's proceedings and quoted his own remarks as follows :—"We have no objection to South Mysore having the Act if they want it."

MR. LAKE, (South Mysore) :—May I refer Mr. Martin to page 41 of last year's proceedings. There you will find it stated "Mr. E. F. Barber, in proposing an amendment, said 'that this Association urge upon the respective Governments &c., &c.,'".

MR. BARBER : Will you read a little beyond that ?

MR. LAKE : (reading) "I may tell you at once that the amendment is not mine" (Laughter). There is nothing about South Mysore there.

MR. DANVERS : It was sprung on me. I had no official information.

THE CHAIRMAN : The point before the meeting is as to whether Mr. Danvers can bring up the matter of extradition after what has been said on the Act. I do not see myself that it bars a question being asked.

MR. BARBER : If it is to debar discussion on the Act it most certainly does, because there is an extradition clause in the Act. So I think it is better to have Mr. Danvers' resolution.

MR. ABBOTT : We went into committee to find out whether if I altered my resolution, it would meet the sense of the meeting. I have got a seconder. I should like the resolution to be put to the meeting. I have altered this resolution considerably. I want somebody to second it, somebody who is in favour of the Act. I will read the resolution as altered : "That this Association, in view of the refusal of those districts that have not hitherto adopted Act I of 1903 to accept it, considers that at the meetings of the conference the subject of Act I should not appear on the Agenda paper except under the conditions of rule 10 of the U.P.A.S.I."

MR. BARBER : Does South Mysore agree to that ?

MR. PITTOCK : Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN : The only point is whether Mr. Danvers, after that resolution, can speak about the Act.

MR. DANVERS : At future meetings ?

MR. BARBER : Yes.

MR. LAKE : May I ask if this resolution will apply to the present meeting ?

THE CHAIRMAN : No. Mr. Abbott, this refers only to future meetings, does it not ?

MR. ABBOTT : Yes,

THE CHAIRMAN : The word "future" is left out in your resolution.

MR. ABBOTT : Please put it in.

THE CHAIRMAN : I will put this resolution to the meeting in Committee with the addition of the word "future."

The resolution was carried in Committee.

(OPEN MEETING).

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : Before you put the resolution, Sir, I should like to drop my present office and speak as Chairman of last year's meeting. Mr. Abbott referred in his speech in terms of most friendly disapprobation to my action in letting an advocate of the Act speak twice at last year's meeting. Mr. Abbott was not here then. I should like to explain that owing to peculiar difficulties special arrangements were made that two speakers on either side could speak on a subsequent day. It was quite open to either side to put up any one they chose to speak, and as a matter of fact one of those who spoke against the Act had also spoken previously.

MR. ABBOTT : I accept the explanation.

MR. MARTIN : I wish to have it placed on record that my Association supports heartily the proposal of Mr. Abbott.

MR. MALCOLM : I should like to say, to commence with, that I am quite in accord with Mr. Abbott's resolution. I think that further discussions on this Act, as circumstances stand at present, are perhaps futile. But Mr. Abbott has said that the matter was brought up as one of surprise at last year's meeting. Personally I wish merely to say that, as far as I am concerned, I came to the meeting myself with the intention of merely supporting a motion for the general adoption of the Act if the matter came up. On the matter being brought up by another Association I took advantage of the opportunity. I merely wish to emphasise that, so far as I am concerned, I had no intention of saying anything to surprise anyone. Mr. Abbott has told us that we are in the primitive stage. I think we are. There are one or two matters that we ought to consider a little while, thinking over the matter, as discussion will stop in the future. That is, we have been told that this matter of the Act does not affect us now because in the past it was brought up by men who are no longer here ; and I take it that Mr. Abbott implies by this that the old conditions were so different then that they do not affect the conditions now in any way. I should like to emphasise the fact that we employ our labour under advances. I think it is universal all over South India. There may be certain fortunate exceptions ; but still the fact goes without saying that nearly the whole coolly labour is employed under the advance system in South India. I have been watching this for the last 25 years, more or less. And it seems to me that under present conditions, and under conditions as they have existed for the last 15 or 20 years, the cooly man is fast developing into a first-class rogue. He takes advances but tries to avoid now-a-days fulfilling his obligations in connection with them. What I want to say

is that, the advance system being such as it is, it seems to me quite impossible that we can expect to get our labour to fulfil its obligations unless we have some sort of legal support in the matter. And it seems to me that so long as that legal support is not universal we cannot expect to really do any good in the matter of bringing defaulters to book. So long as there is one law in one country and another in another, we shall have difficulties. That was one of the reasons why I was anxious to have the Act adopted universally. I said the cooly was irresponsible. There was one time during which I was able to advance for a certain class of labour without any agreement, giving small advances and getting the terms of the agreement duly fulfilled. Now, I cannot make any advances to the people of the same class without a written agreement, for the simple reason that I should never see my money if I did.

Mr. Abbott rather made a point again of all the disabilities of the Act. The matter has been so fully threshed out at previous meetings that I do not propose to go over it again, but he is still making, and has always made, a special point of the penal clauses of the Act as being an objectionable feature of it. I really cannot understand why. Mr. Abbott himself has never come under any of the penal clauses. As I had occasion to point out, there are many Acts in force and there are many severe penal clauses which would apply to me if I broke them; but you cannot be proceeded against under the Act until such time as you commit an offence under it. It seems to me that, having got to a certain stage of progress in the matter of agitating for legislation, the planters of Southern India have decided that they are not in a bad position as regards their labour, that they do not require any Labour Act, and consequently that they will have nothing to do with the Act. That is the natural conclusion that one can come to from what one has read. Every Association seems to object to the legislation in force generally; and one can only assume that their condition is somewhat advantageous and that they do not need it. It seems to me, that being so, discussion will be futile; but it would look as though the whole of the past history of working up a case for this Act was needless; and it seems to me a great pity that the matter should be treated in this way—quite dropped altogether—because I think that in a thing like this we should build up and not destroy. We cannot get any Act which will suit us all at once. If we do not get this Act amended, we shall not be in a better position in future.

MR. BARBER said:—I should like to speak in support of Mr. Abbott's Resolution, but I cannot speak in support of what he said, and I wish it clearly understood that in supporting the Resolution I do so for the obvious reason—wishing, with my peaceful disposition, to pour oil on troubled waters—that I think it is quite inadvisable that we should indulge in futile discussions. Last year when the Labour Law was discussed we had hoped that it might be possible for all of us to come into line and by accepting existing legislation pave the way for further legislation if

required. This hope was disappointed. At the last Meeting it was thought that seeds of disruption might be sown by the discussion. That may be, and no doubt they were. But that plant wants a peculiar soil to thrive in, and the soil is not found in South India. The seeds themselves are bad germinators, worse than *Manihot Dichotoma*, and about equal to boiled cinchona seed from Java ; but should one happen to come on, I hope the weed will be promptly eradicated and sent to Mr. Anstead's office as a unique specimen and warning. I hope before long we shall discover our full strength, when by offering a united front to the world we shall get all we want—that is to say, all that is good for us.

MR. DANVERS : I do not think Mr. Malcolm has quite clearly put the matter before us to-day. He said there was one law in one country and another law in another country, and that it was awkward. That is true. But the *personnel* of the different countries differs also. What is quite easy for him in Wynaad may be rather difficult for us in a Native State. Last year I gave my chief reasons for opposing the Act in Committee. But subsequently the matter has been referred in the public Press, and a letter in the *Madras Mail*, an injudicious one, gave reasons for not liking the Act. It is not so much that we do not require an Act in Mysore as that we are afraid to have it in Mysore. There are different laws in different districts. That is a pity ; but there are different people and different officials in different districts. That is a pity too. Personally, I am afraid of having the Act. There are certain obvious disabilities, and Mr. Abbott has threshed them out. I do not think Mr. Malcolm has put before us the difficulties of Associations in Native States.

MR. ABBOTT : I just want to say a few words, Sir. The first word that I have to say is my apology to our last year's Chairman for having misunderstood what happened then. I perhaps ought not to have said what I did say. I understand that there was a special arrangement by which members were allowed to speak more than once. I think it is my duty to apologise for what I said under a misunderstanding. Mr. Malcolm objected in the most friendly way last year. He objected to my speaking to you again about the labour law as passed. I spoke of it as a surprise with regard to Wynaad. I was quite certain that Wynaad was going to leave the Act alone, and I was surprised that the Wynaad members took a prominent part in the discussion of the Act, attempting to force it upon other districts. I quite admit that Mr. Malcolm did not bring up the subject. I say it was a surprise to me to find Wynaad doing anything about it.

There is another point Mr. Malcolm raised when he spoke of my objection to the penal clauses. I did not use the expression 'penal clauses.' In fact I avoided it. What I said was 'objectionable clauses.' I did not go into the subject of these clauses in my opening speech, because I promised not to. I said as much as was necessary four years ago. They are *not* penal clauses ; they *are* objectionable. I might mention a few of them ; if a cooly is ill

from any cause whatever you have to pay him two annas a day for three months in addition to medical attendance and drugs which are usually provided by all planters (clause 14). I have noticed that there is some hesitation in objecting to that clause. Some planters want to say they always did it. No body of employers in other parts is obliged to be under such a disability. It is not a penal clause. It is objectionable. Another was: any cooly who has any complaints to make about the estate or his employer can leave them and go to the nearest Magistrate and the planter is bound to pay him while he is away (clause 18). That, I think, is an objectionable clause. When a Magistrate summons you to explain your conduct, and he is satisfied with your explanation, all that the Magistrate can do is to say that you need not pay the cooly while he was away. He is not to punish the cooly. Yet another objectionable clause is that we are also liable to have our lines inspected and our coolies paraded, and asked if they have any complaints, by any official Government likes to appoint. Mr. Malcolm said last year that only the Collector can do this. But the facts are that any official Government likes to appoint under clause 16 can be sent to inspect our lines. It is done by Deputy Collectors. These are some of the objectionable clauses. I just wanted to mention these to show that they are not penal clauses but that they operate against us in the nature of things. You are liable to them if you have the Act in your district. That is all I need say in reply to the points I will ask you to put my resolution.

The resolution carried in committee was then adopted in open meeting in the following form:—

“That this Association, in view of the refusal of those Districts that have not hitherto adopted Act I of 1903 to accept it, considers that at future meetings the subject of Act I should not appear on the Agenda paper except under the conditions of rule 10 of the U. P. S. A. I.”

Extradition.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

MR. DANVERS said: I had intended to give the Meeting the reasons why North Mysore still objected to the Act, but under the circumstances I can leave them out, and go on to speak to my Resolution. In our discussions in the matter of adopting Act I and also in our discussions with such members of the South Mysore Association as we occasionally met, the great question has always been “if we adopt the Act, shall we have extradition?” Last year Mr. Hodgson explained that we should have extradition with the Act, because the last clause of it related to extradition. I have never seen any definite pronouncement from anyone in authority on the point, and I should like to have one. It would facilitate discussion of the matter in future. I beg to propose this Resolution:

“That the Government of Madras be approached with the view of ascertaining clearly whether Extradition will be automatically obtained on the adoption of Act I of 1903 by Planters in Native States, or whether it would be necessary to have special alterations made in existing treaties with such States.”

I do not think I need say any more, as we have had already a good deal of discussion on Act I.

MR. PITTOCK: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody wish to speak in open meeting on Mr. Danvers' resolution, or does any one wish us to go into committee on the matter?

As no one expressed a desire to do either, the Chairman put the resolution, and declared it carried.

Liquid Fuel.

THE CHAIRMAN:—Gentlemen, Mr. Heathcote of Messrs. Best and Co., Calicut, has come here and wishes to address you on the subject of "liquid fuel."

MR. HEATHCOTE, in the course of his remarks on the subject of "liquid fuel," said that he hoped that what he was going to say would be of mutual benefit to planters and to his own people. He wished to show to his people at Home that there existed at present in the planting districts a large demand for liquid fuel to justify his holding it in bulk stocks. At present they had tanks for kerosene only; and unless the demand for liquid fuel was clearly made and passed on to the people at Home there was no chance of asking his home authorities for a large sum of money to erect a big tank at Ernakulam. He did not know what points planters would like him to bring up in regard to the use of liquid fuel—whether they wished to know what liquid fuel was, what its cost was, and what the methods of delivery and transport were. Liquid fuel was the residue from crude petroleum after benzene, kerosene, batching oil, lubricating oil and paraffin wax had been removed from it. It was not crude petroleum, which had a much smaller specific gravity than liquid fuel. It cost considerably more than crude petroleum. Kerosene at present was fairly expensive. Most planters who used kerosene for oil engines used the Standard Oil Company's kerosene, sold in monkey cases, at Rs.+9-0 at the Coast ports of Alleppey, Ernakulam, Calicut, Cannanore and Tellicherry. His Company's rate for liquid fuel was Rs.40 per ton in Madras, which worked out, roughly, to 2 as. 9 pies per gallon. If large stocks were held at Ernakulam they would probably be charged a little more, owing to the longer distance from Borneo and also owing to the delay necessitated in discharging steamers at Ernakulam. It took two to three days at least to discharge a thousand tons of liquid fuel at Ernakulam, against 10 or 12 hours in Madras, where they could pump at a pretty fast rate into the tank. Supposing Rs.+5 per ton was levied at Ernakulam, it would work out at 3 annas per gallon; and kerosene was sold at Rs.+9-0, as he had already mentioned, at the coast ports; allowing 11 annas for the case and two tins when empty, which he thought was the maximum, they could expect to get kerosene at the rate of 7 annas 9 pies per gallon. That was at the port. The cost of freight to the delivery station was the same in the case of liquid fuel as in that of kerosene. The only additional charge which they would have to pay for the use of the liquid fuel was for the return of empties to them at Ernakulam. His company was unable

to supply any liquid fuel in tins. The company got a special low rate from the railway companies for the return of the drums in which it supplied liquid fuel. The maximum freight which would be charged by the Railway Company for sending oil from Ernakulam to Ootacamund would be just over one anna per gallon, including the return of the case. The biggest charge was the cart hire from their estates to the station, which varied. But probably it would not be more than Rs.5 a cart which would hold 16 cases of kerosene or 32 drums of liquid fuel; which worked out to 7 pies a gallon, including the return freight. That should show to them very clearly that liquid fuel was considerably cheaper than kerosene. But liquid fuel was 10% less effective than kerosene; even that brought the cost of liquid fuel very much in its favour. The difficulty in connection with the liquid fuel was as regards transport. His company would be very thankful to planters if they would give their ideas on the question of transport. At present his company sent out four-gallon drums of liquid fuel; that was not satisfactory. He would be thankful if planters would tell him whether they preferred 40 gallons at a time or whether they could make a special tank for the transport of the liquid fuel from the station to their estates. He could send a tank wagon of liquid fuel which held 5,000 gallons and which would require a number of carts to be ready at the station to take the fuel to their estates. He would be glad if planters would tell him what in their opinion would be the best method of transport.

Several planters had changed their oil-engines to suction gas. His company was quite unable to touch suction gas, that being, far and away, the best and cheapest method of producing fire. Mr. Mead told him that there was a probability of oil as well as liquid fuel being used to produce suction gas. If that was done, liquid fuel would beat oil as regards the cost. Another disadvantage which planters suffered from was the fouling of their cylinders and vaporisers. In Madras his people sold a considerable quantity of liquid fuel to small ryots for irrigation purposes and they had heard no complaints of the liquid fuel not being satisfactory. He thought that the difficulties as regards the fouling of engines were greatly exaggerated. They only required a little time to put them right. The fouling of their cylinders could be largely prevented by altering the mixture of the air and vapour; but the difficulty in regard to vaporisers could not be overcome; and the only thing was to have spare vaporisers which could be put in place of the dirty ones, which could be cleaned at leisure. It said a lot for the simplicity of the engine run on liquid fuel that they received very few complaints from ryots who used their engines for pumping purposes.

All that he had said was a rough statement of what he hoped to show would be of benefit to them and to his own business; and he would be very glad to answer any questions which any of them

might wish to put about the use of liquid fuel in Wynaad and other districts.

MR. BARBER: Could you tell me the cost of freight per gallon from Ernakulam to Mettupalayam?

MR. HEATHCOTE: The cost for kerosene and liquid fuel is exactly the same to Mettupalayam: 2 annas 1 pie per drum, which works out to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pies per gallon, there and back.

MR. LEAHY: You said liquid fuel was ten per cent. less effective than oil. Is it not a fact that the power of the engine is lessened 15 to 20 per cent. by the use of the liquid fuel?

MR. HEATHCOTE: I do not think so. Any engine which runs on kerosene oil will run on liquid fuel as well.

MR. BARBER: Might I ask what the loss in transit is put down to—is it theft on the railway?

MR. HEATHCOTE: The loss is due to accidental causes.

MR. BARBER: I suggest that liquid fuel should be sent in larger drums, not with screw tops.

MR. LAKE: Can you tell me how the consumption of one company compares with the other?

MR. HEATHCOTE: For the same amount of power you will have to use 15 per cent. more liquid fuel.

The CHAIRMAN: We are very much obliged to Mr. Heathcote for his remarks, and I think the information will be very useful to be handed to our Association. There is one point as regards tea, which is in regard to cleaning the engines when liquid fuel is used. In our rush with tea, our engines run for 15 to 20 days without stop. That was always been the chief objection as regards tea factories to liquid fuel. It may possibly be that the present arrangements of burning liquid fuel are not the best, where liquid fuel is used in tea factories.

MR. HEATHCOTE: If we could be told which burner is being used we could say whether it is the latest and we could also try to find out the question of cost and from whom it could be got.

The CHAIRMAN: What you have just told us will be passed on to our District Associations for their consideration.

MR. HEATHCOTE then took leave of the Conference and retired.

Prevention of Thefts of Produce.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, The next item on our agenda is the prevention of thefts of produce. Before opening the subject, I should like to remind you of what our Planting Member told us yesterday, *viz.*, that there is no use sending in vague resolutions without particulars about the questions dealt with. I believe the general idea is that something on the lines of the Coffee-Stealing

Prevention Act will meet the case. I should like to point out the great difference there is between the conditions of tea and rubber, especially the latter. I should like you to give the matter your very careful consideration before putting any definite resolution before the meeting. We are going to ask for a special order which is a big order, and judging from our previous attempts as regards Act I of 1903 I think we should be very careful.

MR. TIPPING: Gentlemen, With regard to this, I suggest that I put a resolution before this meeting and that you follow it up by appointing a special committee who will go into the particular requirements of the three products: rubber, tea and pepper; then that we should pass this through the hands of our Chairman to forward it to the proper quarter with our request that the Government will consider the question of making an enactment similar to the one which is at present in use for coffee. My resolution is:

"That in view of the increasing production of rubber, tea, pepper and cardamoms in Southern India, it is considered advisable to ask Government to pass some enactment for the prevention of these products from theft, both on the Plantations and in transit to the Coast, an enactment similar to the Coffee-Stealing Prevention Act being considered suitable."

This might be followed up by the special committee, which will go into all details and place its decision before the Chairman. Would that not do?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. MURPHY: in seconding the resolution, said:—

As this subject was put on the Agenda at the request of my Association, I wish in seconding Mr. Tipping's resolution to add a few remarks.

In Travancore, Mr. Chairman, a considerable amount of rubber has been planted by natives. In some cases comparatively large blocks of 20 to 100 acres have been opened, but in the majority of cases the ryots have put a few trees in their compounds. Some of this rubber reaches the tapping stage this year, and though there is at present no local market, there can be no doubt but that one will very soon be started, and that then, unless rubber is protected in a similar way to coffee, Planters will lose a large percentage of their crop. It may at first seem strange that the Association I represent should have instructed me to bring this matter before this Meeting, as an Act passed by the Madras Government would not be in force in Travancore or Cochin, however, where the stolen rubber will be sold, is in British India, and the man to be jumped on is the receiver. We will also ask the Travancore Government for legislation on similar lines.

MR. Hamilton yesterday told us that when asking for assistance from Government we should always have our case well prepared. My difficulty is that I cannot say that any rubber has actually been stolen, as tapping on anything like a large scale has only

lately been commenced. We can, however, point to Ceylon and obtain from there any amount of evidence to prove how easily rubber may be stolen and disposed of, and Colombo unfortunately has not got a monopoly of dishonest traders, and the Coimbatore cooly, so far as my experience goes, is no better at resisting temptation in the bracing air of Mundakayam than, say, in the Kelani Valley.

My original intention was to propose a separate resolution dealing with rubber only, but it was pointed out to me that Government cannot be expected to pass a separate Act for each product. There is, however, one point I wish to call attention to, as it places Rubber Planters in a very strong position when asking for legislation. It is that, unlike some other products, rubber is not an article of daily use, and no one but the Planter and his Agents can have any necessity to keep it in his possession. I have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

MR. TIPPING : How would you suggest that we bring in the idea of appointing a special committee in connection with the resolution. That is to say, if you approve of the idea.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The CHAIRMAN : I think the best plan will be to propose a Tea man, a Coffee man, a Pepper man and a Rubber man. I gather this committee is not to meet here how.

MR. TIPPING : No. We will make our own arrangements.

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : If it is to be done by correspondence, I should like to be on the committee; but I am afraid I could not undertake to go anywhere to attend meetings of the committee.

MR. TIPPING : That will be the best way, as it will save time. As soon as we arrive at some conclusion we will pass it on to the Chairman to deal with it.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tipping, would it not be better to appoint the committee now and let that resolution stand over for some other day ?

MR. MEAD proposed that the special committee consist of Messrs. Richardson, Hamilton, Tipping, Murphy and Pittock.

MR. LEAHY : I should be glad to second that proposition.

The CHAIRMAN : I gather we meet sometime and bring that resolution forward at a later date.

MR. TIPPING : I do not suppose we can settle all the details, but merely decide the line of action.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, we leave the resolution regarding the thefts of produce to be taken up on the last day, so that in the meantime the Committee could have a talk about it,

Laboratory for the Scientific Officer.

The next item on our agenda is the "Scientific Officer." We take up the question of a Laboratory. Mr. Tipping will address the meeting.

MR. TIPPING : Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, in asking you to support the resolution before the meeting, I cannot do better than say in Mr. Anstead's words what he told us in the *Planters' Chronicle* about this question. He said :—

" 1. A laboratory is absolutely essential to enable me to deal with many of the planting problems submitted to me, to the best of my ability.

" 2. The laboratory must be not merely a chemical one, but fitted for general work, so that plant diseases, fungi, and insects, can be studied.

" 3. The cost of such a laboratory will be comparatively small. Detailed estimates, which I have drawn up, enable me to state that apparatus, chemicals, and fittings, sufficient for my purpose, can all be obtained for the sum of Rs.2,500.

" 4. Suitable premises have already been obtained, tentatively, adjoining my office. This is also essential to enable me to make the best possible use of a laboratory. Work can then be done during intervals of correspondence, and general work.

" 5. The annual upkeep, including rent, will be Rs. 1,000, and no more.

" 6. I do not propose, having got a laboratory, to do nothing but chemical work, but merely to use it as a necessary aid to my work, in much the same way as one uses a pen, or a lens.

" 7. I realise that touring, with frequent visits to the various districts and estates, is by far the most important part of my work, and I can assure planters that I do not wish to give up this to the laboratory, and *I propose, in the future, to do as much field work as I have done in the past, or more if necessary.*

" 8. I propose to use the laboratory chiefly for investigations of special problems of general interest, and not to make innumerable soil and manure analyses for individuals, which can be done by professional analysts. Laboratory work would be done chiefly during intervals of routine office work, and during the monsoon months, when touring is not only difficult, but, as a rule, unprofitable.

" I hope that this brief statement will outline the position, and reassure those who may think that, given a laboratory, it is the last they will see, or hear, of their Scientific Officer on the estates."

That gives you, gentlemen, briefly, what the Scientific Officer has to say on the subject. So that we have only to consider the financial aspect of the question. There are 12 district Associations. Of these one or two are unlikely to contribute to this particular object, having already given large subscriptions to the Scientific

Officer Fund. We are, therefore, left, say with 10 Associations. An average subscription of Rs.250 from each will give us the amount asked for. The sum of Rs.1,000 for up-keep need not be considered at this meeting, as I understand from Mr. Ormerod that for the current season this outlay can be met from the funds available.

The resolution I beg to put now is :

“That this Association approves of and confirms the action of the Secretary in securing the necessary accommodation, adjoining his Office, for the Scientific Officer's Laboratory, and that in accordance with the Scientific Officer's estimate a sum of Rs.2,500 be raised amongst the District Associations and individual Planters for equipping the Laboratory, the manner in which the necessary funds are to be collected to be decided at this meeting. That in view of the urgency for providing the necessary appliances with as little delay as possible, a sufficient sum be allotted from the U. P. A. Reserve Fund, which shall be repaid when the donations are realised.”

[IN COMMITTEE.]

MR. PITTOCK : My Association is very strongly in favour of the laboratory for the Scientific Officer being established, and at once. Mr. Tipping, in the course of his remarks, said that he considered that the discussion in regard to the Rs.1,000 which is wanted for the yearly up-keep might be left over for the time being. I am not at one with Mr. Tipping on this point. I think we should decide now about the Rs.1,000, and get it subscribed, for at least five years. What we want in the matter of a laboratory is that, when we start it, it must be continuous, and we do not want any hitch about it. It should work smoothly, and we want all arrangements made for carrying on the laboratory for five years. I see no reason why delegates should not say now what their Associations will do towards the subscription for the up-keep allowance. I think it is eminently desirable that it should be arranged now if it is possible, and I think it is.

MR. TIPPING : I did not make any point of this. I wish to ask my seconder the question whether the Rs.1,000 which we require yearly should be also considered in connection with the initial expenditure. I should like to associate him with me in that as well as what I said before.

MR. BROCK : My Association cannot see its way to giving extra money towards the establishment or up-keep of this proposed laboratory. My instructions are that I am only to support the scheme if the initial expenditure can be met out of the existing U. P. A. Funds, and also if the yearly up-keep can be met out of the Scientific Officer's fund subscriptions that are promised at this meeting. As far as the Anamalais are concerned, they will not give any special grant for starting the scheme.

MR. DANVERS : It seems to me that having got a valuable Scientific Officer with us, it is rather a pity to tie his hands for want of a few more rupees. Individual associations know their own business best, but as a general thing we are all agreed that Mr. Anstead cannot give full value, unless he is able to give full work and is given full equipment. At a meeting of the North Mysore Planters' Association it was resolved "that this Association considers a laboratory is indispensable for the use of the Scientific Officer and is prepared to pay its share of the cost of equipment of the proposed laboratory and its share of the annual up-keep; but at the same time it is hoped that the U. P. A. can induce the Governments of Madras and Mysore to provide Mr. Anstead with necessary accommodation and equipment." Mr. Anstead has since fixed the cost of equipment at Rs.2,500 and the up-keep at Rs.1,000. This is not a heavy outlay, and if the Mysore Government is not accommodating and the Madras laboratory is too far away, while he has given excellent reasons for having his own laboratory within easy reach, I commit my Association to a promise of support.

MR. LEAHY : My instructois from Central Travancore are to support both the donation to the initial cost and apparatus and so forth and also to increase our annual subscription for five years to meet the up-keep.

MR. BARBER : My Association suggested that funds should be raised out of the Reserve Fund. I understand there is some difficulty about that. They feel that they have already subscribed a good deal to the Scientific Officer Fund.

MR. MURPHY said that his Association was prepared to pay its share for the up-keep. He thought that funds should be raised by levy of a cess. Some districts were subscribing very largely at present; much larger than Mundakayam. If worked on an acreage basis those districts which paid heavily now would pay less then. Even if Mundakayam had to pay more, as he thought it would have to, it would be prepared to pay.

MR. BARBER : It is quite true that an acreage cess will make subscriptions from the Associations less; but there are some men who will not subscribe at all. We cannot appeal to them for an acreage cess. Some District Associations will only be able to subscribe on the acreage basis. I think it would make the Scientific Officer Fund very much less.

MR. DICKINS : My Association is willing to pay its proper share of the subscription towards the scheme.

MR. DANVERS : There is one objection to Mr. Murphy's suggestion; that is, the Scientific Officer Fund is supported by voluntary subscriptions and not by an acreage cess. You cannot have one portion of the fund made up by voluntary subscriptions and another on the acreage basis.

MR. LAKE : It seems to me it is no consideration how the fund is raised, so long as they pay, whether on acreage or by donation. Our

Association guarantees to support the Scientific Officer Fund and laboratory and also the up-keep for five years.

THE CHAIRMAN : The best way will be to ask different Associations what they are prepared to give. Mr. Tipping has already told us that an average of Rs.250 will cover it. Perhaps some will give more, and some will give less.

MR. PITTOCK : My Association is prepared to contribute Rs.200 to the initial cost of the laboratory and Rs.50 per annum afterwards, for five years. We hope to increase this. We have subscription lists in circulation ; they have not come in yet ; but we guarantee to give Rs.200 for the initial cost of the laboratory and Rs.50 towards the up-keep, and we hope to increase these sums.

MR. LEAHY : We are prepared to give Rs.200 towards the initial cost and Rs.50 for five years.

MR. MEAD : It is obvious that the matter will have to be referred to the District Associations. Neither myself nor Mr. Abbott is authorised to make any promises on behalf of the Wynaad. I should suggest that the money be raised on an acreage basis, and that each Association should know how much it should subscribe both for the initial cost and up-keep.

MR. TIPPING : Will you give us an idea ?

MR. MEAD : If you will work out the acreage and let us know how much is wanted, we will do our best to get you the money. I should like to see the whole scheme on the acreage basis.

MR. DANVERS : A good many Associations have settled their way of raising funds, and it is difficult to unsettle it now.

MR. MURPHY : If it is worked on an acreage basis, Mr. Mead is prepared to pay his share and so is Mundakayam.

THE CHAIRMAN : I was simply trying to get an idea of what was likely to be got from the different Associations, and if you can do it just now we will ask you to give your acreages.

MR. KNIGHT : My Association promises to pay any sum fixed on the acreage basis.

MR. TIPPING : We have no special instructions with regard to this subscription ; but from what I know of our finances we will give Rs.200 for the initial cost and Rs.50 for five years.

MR. DICKINS : I cannot promise any amount definitely, but I am sure we will be able to give some money, say, Rs.100 towards the initial cost and Rs.50 for up-keep. I cannot promise, but that is my idea.

MR. GUDGEON : My Association will pay Rs. 200 towards the initial cost and Rs.50 for five years.

MR. DANVERS : My instructions are, "our share".

MR. BARBER : I think it is possible the Nilgiris will give Rs.200 for the initial cost and Rs.50 for five years. I cannot say, however, definitely for the present.

The CHAIRMAN : The result of all the promises is we have Rs.1,100 towards the initial cost and Rs.300 towards the upkeep. I would ask you to bring your acreage figures this afternoon, and we will work out the individual share of each Association.

The Conference adjourned for the luncheon interval.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The delegates reassembled at 3 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, we will resume our discussion of the scheme of a Laboratory for the Scientific Officer. Mr. Ormerod will tell us what the share will be of each Association on the acreage basis.

The SECRETARY : The total acreage, after putting aside the Kanan Devan Planters' Association, which has its own Scientific Officer and does not contribute, would in round numbers be 100,000 acres. Six pies an acre on that would produce Rs.3,125, and after that in the following years we should require about 2 pies an acre.

MR. TIPPING ; I take it that the 2 pies per acre will mean slightly over Rs.1,000. This year the 6 pies per acre gives you the Rs.2,500 you want. We might pass some resolution on the subject asking District Associations to base their calculations on these figures ; 6 pies per acre for this year only and 2 pies per acre afterwards for the up-keep of the Scientific Officer's Laboratory.

MR. BARBER : Let us see how this works out. If we pay this year 6 pies an acre, we shall have to pay an increased subscription of Rs.400 more for the Scientific Officer Fund. I cannot ask for this to be paid after what we have given. We originally promised Rs.1,100 ; we paid Rs.1,250 and if the Rs.150 extra be put aside for that, we could make up the difference.

The CHAIRMAN : We do not want to confuse this with the original Scientific Officer Fund subscription at all. I think there are objections to the acreage basis which, as far as I can see, cannot be got over. We want money to be raised for equipping the Laboratory and for its annual up-keep, and I think it should be taken up entirely separate.

MR. MEAD : Mr. Chairman, I think the matter will have to be referred in almost every case to the District Associations. I sincerely hope that it will not be absolutely separated from the Scientific Officer Fund at present raised. For instance, on the same acreage basis, it means that Wynand will be called upon to pay a sum which is somewhat larger, as against the Rs.100 for Mundakayam.

MR. TIPPING : With reference to what Mr. Mead said, I think, to start with, contributions to the Scientific Officer Fund have not been on a scientific basis. People have given hitherto whatever they thought fit : and nothing has been done to put any proportion on the acreages or to calculate on the interests involved (hear, hear). I think that might be also regulated to-day, and the whole thing got

into line. I quite agree with you that the sum we are about to raise for the equipment of a laboratory should not be confused with the Scientific Officer Fund scheme, but I think the other matter might be put on the same acreage basis as you have to pay to the U.P.A. (cheers).

The CHAIRMAN : I am quite with you, Mr. Tipping, and also with Mr. Mead. I pointed out when the Scientific Officer Fund was started that it should be on an acreage basis, but I was told there were certain difficulties. But if this could be based on the acreage it would be put on a permanent basis.

MR. TIPPING : May I suggest to the other gentlemen who have objections, to mention them to the Chairman, so that the matter might be brought up again ?

MR. BARBER : May I ask what the Scientific Officer Fund subscription correctly works out to ?

The SECRETARY : It works out to about 8 pies per acre.

MR. BARBER : My Association is paying 16 pies per acre !

MR. DANVERS : I do not know that those difficulties are insuperable. In my district members pay so much for three years for the Scientific Officer Fund. It is rather late in the day to alter that. I agree with Mr. Richardson that the Laboratory Fund should be kept distinct from the Scientific Officer Fund. We are prepared to pay our share on the acreage basis; but it will be very confusing.

MR. DICKINS : The subscription of Rs.50 is probably irrespective of acreage; I do not think my Association will agree to an acreage basis.

The CHAIRMAN : Well, gentlemen, I take it that there is nothing for it but to refer this back to District Associations if delegates are not prepared at this moment to guarantee the amount. It means, however, a terrible lot of delay. I has been suggested that we draw on our Reserve Fund to meet the present outlay, and recoup ourselves from the subscriptions.

MR. TIPPING : I propose that all the District Associations be asked to send what they can, so that there may be no delay.

The CHAIRMAN : We have a promise of Rs.1,100.

MR. PITTOCK : Will you kindly read out what the share will be of each Association ?

The CHAIRMAN : That will take some time to work out unless each works out his own figures at 6 pies per acre.

MR. DANVERS : May I suggest that, besides this acreage basis being worked out and circulated to the District Associations, private subscription lists be also circulated. A visitor who is present here to-day, Mr. Lund, I am very pleased to tell you, guarantees Rs.300 to the fund (cheers).

The CHAIRMAN : As the matter now stands we have this morning been promised Rs.1,100, and Mr. Lund very kindly offers a

donation of Rs.300. That brings the sum to Rs.1,400. We have got Rs.1,000 in our Reserve Fund, which might be used, in the meantime, and we might recoup ourselves from subscriptions to come in, if that meets with the approval of the meeting. Delegates must press their Associations to subscribe as much as possible. To save delay, somebody might propose a resolution.

MR. DANVERS: Mr. Lund's donation is contingent on the amount being raised. How is the Rs.1,100 made up?

The Chairman here read a list of promised subscriptions.

MR. DANVERS: We are willing to pay our share on the acreage basis, Rs.375; and our share of the up-keep on the two pie basis in future years.

MR. KNIGHT: My Association also accepts the acreage basis.

At this stage the figures were worked out in detail and the total amount of promised donations announced was Rs.2,232.

MR. MEAD: Neither myself nor Mr. Abbott is authorised to promise anything, but we will refer to our Association; and I hope they will pay on the acreage basis.

The CHAIRMAN: We are within Rs.250 of the amount required. Can any Association stretch its helping hand a little further? This is including the Wynaad.

MR. ABBOTT: We will do our best when we go back, but I cannot promise. I wrote to my Association, but the reply I got is not very encouraging. It was thought that we were paying as much as we could afford to pay already. We will try our best to raise subscriptions.

MR. MURPHY: I have no authority to promise.

MR. DANVERS: May I suggest that when these circulars are sent round about subscriptions to the Laboratory Fund and so on, you or some other competent person draw up an eloquent appeal showing the disadvantages of getting the Scientific Officer 9/10th across the water and leaving him there?

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to see the money made up before we leave this. I shall be very glad to give Rs.100.

I am glad to say that there was a slight error on my part; the amount, I see, has been subscribed; that is subject to Wynaad paying (cheers). Then I shall have to put Mr. Tipping's resolution, which is seconded by Mr. Pittock.

The resolution was carried in committee.

[IN OPEN MEETING.]

The CHAIRMAN: I put Mr. Tipping's resolution in open meeting.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN: In order to save delay, Mr. Ormerod wants to cable Home for the necessary plants and apparatus. I understand that this has the approval of the meeting.

The meeting sanctioned the arrangement,

A Vote of Thanks.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pittock for putting his laboratory at Mr. Anstead's disposal. I am sure we are very much indebted to him (hear, hear).

MR. PITTOCK: I am very much obliged to the meeting for the vote of thanks passed; not that I think I deserve it at all.

Rental of Premises.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ormerod wishes to have power to continue the rent for the premises for the next three years. He has engaged it only for three months now.

MR. DANVERS: Does not the subscription to the Laboratory authorise it?

The CHAIRMAN: I think so. The next item is:

Scientific Officer's Staff and Contingencies.

MR. ANSTEAD: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—If you will permit me to say a word, I wish to touch on three subjects. I should like to say that the laboratory is a matter I have had very close at heart. I had made up my mind to ask you for what I wanted, and you have given me what I wanted. It is extremely generous of you, not only of the Association but also of private individuals. I am quite sure that you will find it a good investment. It only remains for me to thank you for the most prompt way in which you have met my request. I can assure you that I will use the laboratory to the very best advantage.

With regard to the Library, during the past year a beginning has been made with a library for the U. P. A., and I think you will agree with me that it is very necessary that, from time to time, we should buy new books upon agricultural subjects, particularly on the Chemistry of the soil and manure, to enable not only me but the planters themselves, to keep in touch with the very latest advice and latest discoveries upon scientific work; more especially in the case of rubber, upon which, being a comparatively new industry, you will notice that there are a very large number of publications coming out every year. And in view of the fact that a good deal is being asked for this year, I propose to suggest that you do not allot any particular sum out of the general resources of the U.P.A. for this particular purpose. But I am going to ask for a small sum for contingencies, and I suggest that during this year we get what books are necessary out of this allowance for contingencies. In future years I shall ask you for a grant for a library, but I do not now propose to ask you for a special grant for books. I hope you will leave it to the Secretary and myself to say what amount should be spent on books. With regard to the staff, of course a laboratory in a way implies an increase in our staff; but I think the time is not yet for us to *spread out* and have more staff. I hope one day ten years hence this U. P. A. will have a scientific staff and it is not going to be a one man show. But that is on the lap of the gods; in fact I propose to have no

staff and to save broken glass by doing my own washing up. With regard to contingencies, the chief needs are a few insect cases and breeding cages for insects when studying insect pests. I propose to ask you to be good enough to allot a sum of Rs.150. I will try and do with that this year. I do not propose to occupy your time any longer (cheers).

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON; I beg to move that the sum asked for by Mr. Anstead be allotted for contingencies.

This was unanimously agreed to.

The Scientific Officer's Programme, 1910-11.

The CHAIRMAN: The next head is the programme of 1910-11. I would ask the Committee to let us know what they have done in the matter. I mean the Committee appointed to draw up a scheme for the programme of the Scientific Officer.

MR. PITTOCK: The programme drawn up by the Committee that you appointed yesterday reads as follows:—

“We propose that Mr. Anstead visit Wynaad about the 20th of this month; go on from the Wynaad in the early part of September—we put down only approximate dates—to Cochin; from there to Mundakayam on the 15th or about that date; from Mundakayam to Central Travancore towards the end of September; from Central Travancore to South Travancore beginning of October and returning *via* Bangalore to Coorg, so as to reach Coorg about the middle of October. From Coorg we propose he should return to head-quarters and spend November in head-quarters doing office work, laboratory work, and any other work. In the early part of December we propose that he should tour in North and South Mysore, returning to head-quarters, after a short tour, about the 20th of December. A short tour in the Anamalais we have put down for January, and leave it to him to undertake it on any date that month. February will be spent in head-quarters; March on a short tour in the Nilgiris; and if the Wynaad wants the Scientific Officer in March, he could go there and return to head-quarters at the end of March. In the beginning of April Cochin again, and from there to Mundakayam. Early in May to Peermade, returning from there to South and North Mysore; this to occupy from the end of May to the beginning of June. Returning to head-quarters after the middle of June, visit Shevaroy's in the early part of July, and return to head-quarters so as to be here for the Annual General Meeting.”

The CHAIRMAN: Have any of you any questions to ask about the programme?

MR. MEAD: I would suggest for the Scientific Officer's consideration that these tours in the districts should not be like those he had this year, which consisted of practically visiting the bulk of the estates in the districts. Insect pests or disease of any sort can be better studied in one or two places. That should rather save him time in travelling in the districts. I merely suggest this as a matter for consideration.

MR. ANSTEAD: I am of course entirely in your hands about this, I want that to be quite understood. As far as taking up one particular thing at a time I quite agree that I should study on one particular estate or place, but where that should be must lie with the District Associations. I do not know the districts well enough to know where to go. I am booked to go to a certain district at a certain time, but it is for them to send me a cut and dried programme if they wish me to do a particular thing. That is perfectly simple for the District Associations to do. There is one word of warning I wish to give. I do not mean anything personal at all. It is this. When I go up to one of these districts and stay at one particular estate to study, and go without seeing anybody else, you must understand that I am obeying the District Association. Men must never complain that I have failed to go to see them. I must obey your orders.

Hybridisation of Coffee.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hamilton wishes, with the permission of the meeting, to take up the matter of Hybridisation as the next item. Has anybody any objection? (Voices: "none").

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: I have asked this to be taken up to-day because Mr. Anstead is arranging for an exhibition to-morrow, and I want all people to hear what I have to say on the subject before we go to the exhibition. I must say I am not going to move any resolution; a friend of mine will put one.

As the only planter present who has done any continuous work in connection with hybrid coffee, and as one who has for some time past been very sanguine as to the possibilities of getting an improved strain through hybrids I have been asked to give a history of our trees. This will not amount to much, as it is only within the last six years that any systematic efforts have been made at developing a permanent variety.

About 15 years ago, perhaps more, I was given a few seeds of a well-known local hybrid strain—seeds of the second or third generation, I am not sure which. These proved so unsatisfactory that I did not persevere, but before finally abandoning them I had bought some seeds from Wynaad, from whom I cannot remember, and found that while among them there were all sorts and conditions, some appeared promising. For some years I just left these to grow, and about six years ago I commenced to cut out all obviously unsuitable trees and to plant a few trees from those which pleased me most. Even these did not all turn out well, but I have about a dozen trees out of the fourth generation under observation (5 years old) of which some 6 or 8 may be regarded as satisfactory—extremely so, as far as one can judge at present. Of course, I have also a number of younger ones coming on. They ought not to be planted less than 8 ft. by 8 ft. I have them 10 ft. apart along a road. They have a distinctly mixed appearance, make a great spread, and bear long, strong but not profuse wood. On the whole I consider them to have more Liberian characteristics than necessary in Mysore, so I have made no attempts to protect them from cross-fertilisation with

the surrounding Arabian coffee. In fact, I have hoped to get it and think it must have taken place, as the plants of the fifth generation which have been raised from the seed of these trees have a distinctly Arabian appearance. Should bug arrive in Mysore, it would be advisable to protect the trees of the fourth generation from possible crossing, in order to fix the type as it exists now as far as possible.

From my present point of view I have only aimed at a slight strengthening of the trees by the introduction of the hardier Liberian strain. It has been obvious all along that the few trees which were attacked at all by leaf disease shook it off very soon, and I also discovered last year that the coffee, though naturally not quite as clean as our ordinary Arabian, was worth 50s. to 55s. at Home, so it looked as though a further dilution of the Liberian, that is to say a dilution with Arabian blood, would bring the quality up to ordinary East Indian standard. The coffee valued was of the third generation; that of the fourth generation is so valuable as seed that I shall not be able to spare any for market samples for some time to come; but it seems quite evident that a tree which gives increased crops as these do and improved stamina is very valuable even if its produce is worth 5s. or even 10s. per cent. less than the poorer crop of its weaker neighbours.

Work so far has been quite rough and ready, consisting merely of selecting suitable trees as seed-bearers and destroying all condemned as unfit. But now we are trying, with Mr. Anstead's help, to make more scientific experiments. This year the attempt is almost a failure, but as time goes on we hope to learn more of the best methods to suit coffee and to carry on careful and systematic breeding. I have 17 or 18 varieties of coffee growing, including different hybrids, and a large acreage of jungle, so the only obstacles are the expense and trouble, which are great, and the proper advice, which at present we have.

I do not stand here to be shot at as an authority on the subject, but if you can get any information out of me by questions it will be a pleasure to me to help you.

The matter is well worth the attention of all coffee planters. It is evident that we must do something to add to the resisting power of our coffee. I believe this is a fair chance and am going on with the strain myself. Time is my great trouble, but being convinced of the possibilities latent in this more or less accidental commencement, I will give all I can spare to it and push on as far as possible.

MR. DANVERS: Perhaps after what Mr. Hamilton has said this might sound as rather ancient history:

My Association feels very strongly that a new strain of coffee is required, whether a hybrid or a natural one. There is no doubt that the quality of our coffee is deteriorating, as also the vitality of our trees as a whole. Pests and diseases are increasing, and as years go by the coffee plant will be less and less able to withstand

them. Unless coffee growing is to pass from the East entirely to the West, some more vigorous and heavily yielding variety must be found. Hybridisation should be continued, and may turn out to be our salvation; but it is a long and weary process, and while the grass is growing the horse may starve. "Robusta" coffee seems to promise well, and some of us are procuring seed—which I may remark is not being given away. Mr. Lampard, Chairman of the Rubber Plantations Trust, Ltd., spoke of varieties discovered by them in the Congo Forests which yielded even 20 cwts. an acre. These returns were in the experimental stage and awaited confirmation by further experience. Now, experimental cultivation is apt to be misleading and disappointing. We have all seen *C. Arabica* trees bearing at the rate of 20 cwts. an acre—and a great deal more—but the results over large acreages generally average 3 to 4 cwts. "Liberian" was boomed as a heavy yielder and immune to leaf disease; it was poor coffee, and while it certainly resisted leaf disease for a number of years it eventually succumbed, and I have never seen such awful *Hemileia* on any variety as I have on Liberian, trees having been killed out by it in one season. "Maragogipe" was tried, as being a fancy bean of great size and excellence. So it is, I believe, if you can find it among the foliage. I am not therefore too sanguine as to the possible results from new varieties, or hybrids; but if we can improve our quality, or appreciably increase our quantity, and that on a healthier and hardier tree than we now possess, we may face the gloomy possibilities of the future with more cheerfulness.

My Association therefore urges very strongly that both the U.P.A.S.I. and the Scientific Officer should take up this matter very seriously and earnestly. Our sticky young brothers of the rubber belt are booming; we old pioneers of planting are getting stiff in the joints; and without wishing their interests neglected, we would ask that our old age complaints be given earnest attention. We do not seem to possess many alternatives to coffee, so must endeavour to improve our strain. We therefore urge on the Scientific Officer the pressing necessity of new strains, natural or producible.

We also suggest that the present deteriorated state of the coffee bean be enquired into. There being no laboratory now available, the services of a good London Chemist might be utilised to examine beans, determine what constitutes a good sample, and, if possible, what causes the presence or absence of the essential oil which seems to govern liquoring. We were very reluctant to accept the dictum of Mincing Lane when it first raised the cry of "deteriorated Mysore," but I think most of us now acknowledge the truth of the cry. Much of our coffee when pressed or heated loses its oil, and I have seen coffee in the West Indies also pale off when passed through a Snouts polisher; but half an hour afterwards the oil had rolled up to the surface again from the stores within. Those of us who keep coffee for personal use often notice how the colour is lost in a few months, and end by drinking something very like old putty to look at, and tasting of nothing in particular.

Something is very wrong somewhere, and we would press for the solving of this problem. Even now good coffee is occasionally grown, but whether it is due to successful fructification, to climatic causes, to the use or non-use of artificial fertilisers, or to what, we do not know, and hazard many wild conjectures. Dr. Lehmann admitted that he had learnt nothing as to what caused "quality." We hope a determined effort may be made, and at once, to find out something about it and meanwhile to introduce a new, hardy and more prolific strain of coffee.

Perhaps some planters may disagree with what I have said about the rapid loss of colour in coffee kept for use; but I can assure them that I keep samples from several estates, and while it may be one sample which deteriorates one year, another season may see another sample go off, while the former has improved in quality and keeping power. Good or poor fructification seems to have much to do with this variation, but I used not to notice it formerly.

My resolution is this:—"That in view of the decreasing yield, poor quality and increased liability to diseases of our present strain of coffee, the U. P. A. S. I., and the Scientific Officer be asked to persevere with the experiments in hybridisation steadily; that an endeavour be made to ascertain by searching inquiries the quality, bearing capabilities, freedom from diseases and general suitability of some of the new varieties with a view to the procuring of seed for distribution on payment to the various Associations, and that a good London Chemist be employed to determine as far as possible what constitutes a good sample, to inquire into the important question of the essential oil of coffee, and to generally advise us on the whole question of deteriorated quality."

MR. PARSONS: I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution. In doing so I give you my experiences of this interesting subject. Many years ago I planted Liberian throughout my coffee—some seed came from Mr. Knight's estate—in the hopes of a hybrid resulting. These hopes were realised, for we found in the nursery some seedlings that grew feet, so to speak, to the others' inches. These were picked out. I have now trees ten years old and some 30 or more four years old; some grown from the seed of the older trees. The old trees are magnificent specimens.

In experiments of this nature I entirely agree with Mr. Anstead's remarks that there must be continuity, and the working should be undertaken by a small committee of planters resident in the district. To this end I shall be pleased to place all my hybrids at the disposal of Mr. Tipping, who represents the largest interests in the province, to arrange the working in such a manner as he thinks best, with the assistance of a small committee. I shall willingly pay the expenses to any reasonable amount, feeling, as I do, that the success of the experiment, in which I have every confidence, must eventually be of the greatest advantage to me. The Committee will be able to start propagating hybrids from the start, as

seed-bearing areas may be set apart in different parts of the estates, many of the original Liberian trees being dispersed about the estates and still doing well.

MR. TIPPING : I think we should thank Mr. Parsons for his kind offer. On my own behalf I thank him most heartily. If possible, I will take advantage of his offer. At present I have not thought over the matter, and I am unable to say what form the experiment should take. I have no doubt that Mr. Anstead will guide us. We shall not find any difficulty in finding some one to carry out the experiment, I hope.

(IN COMMITTEE).

In reply to Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Hamilton said that the hybrids on his estates were of the fourth generation.

MR. PARSONS : What is the general idea about the causes of the steady deterioration in the quality of our coffee ?

The CHAIRMAN : I think, Mr. Parsons, that comes under " quality and curing."

MR. DANVERS : Have you had the bean reported on ?

MR. HAMILTON : Of the third generation only : 55 shillings. I sent a report of that to the *Chronicle*.

MR. ANSTEAD : I think we are a little bit confusing the two things. Quality is quite a different thing from hybridisation, though it is quite possible that we could breed quality if we could only get the secret of what it depends upon. It is a subject I would like to work on in my laboratory, instead of the London Chemist. I have been going into the matter more or less casually. There is one thing which particularly struck me about the results Dr. Lehmann published. Dr. Lehmann got on to the idea of specific gravity. There is no doubt that the specific gravity does seem to follow in a remarkable way the value of the coffee as valued in London ; but at the same time if you look at another column you will see that the oil content also follows the value in almost as remarkable a way as the specific gravity, which certainly seems to bear upon the suggestion that the quality does depend on the oil. If it is so, we certainly have got at the beginning of the investigation. Personally, I should be very much inclined to take it up from the essential oil point of view. If the quality does depend upon the essential oil, the skill in curing comes in. What I would propose to do, if the matter is put into my hands, would be to conduct experiments hand in hand with the curers. That is, I would like to have definite samples sent down from the estates and analyse them after they have been cured in several different ways. I believe that is the way to begin to work on quality. It is only a suggestion ; but it seems to me that is the way. There is no doubt that as Dr. Lehmann's complicated analysis of coffee led to nothing, we can leave that alone. The thing to do now is to try variations in

curing and in drying out here, and see if that will not give us better results, before the coffee goes Home. I certainly think that we have a chance of improving matters and finding out on what the quality depends.

But we are now discussing hybridisation, which is another matter. What we know about the coffee hybrid is that it increases our yield, but the most striking thing about Mr. Hamilton's hybrids to me is their practical immunity from leaf disease. I have seen the estate when the ordinary *Arabica* had leaf disease, but when you came to the hybrids leaf disease was not apparent. I do not say that there is none, but it is nothing like the ordinary leaf disease. Last month, when I was in the Nilgiris, I was shown some hybrids on one estate. I was told that they had been horribly neglected, and they were covered with green bug. Instead of looking like the ordinary coffee when attacked by green bug, they had big leaves and good crop. There is your resistance. That is the thing to go for. Personally, I believe we have got a lot to gain in hybrids as disease-resistants alone. It is not a new idea. Nearly every one of the big crops is a hybrid. At Home for the last ten years money has been spent in growing wheat hybrids, and they give nearly double the ordinary yield. I had the pleasure of working in the West Indies some years ago. The Imperial Department of Agriculture was started in the first place to study the sugar cane because the old cane was so attacked by disease that the sugar industry was at a stand-still. The Department set to work to make hybrids, and they have now got a hybrid which is resistant to several diseases; and incidentally the sugar yield has practically been doubled. I need not take up your time in going through crop after crop. Fruit in the English market is all grown from hybrids. Except Coffee, everything is hybridised: Rubber, Tea, &c., Why should Coffee be the one thing left alone? Years ago we ought to have gone for hybrids. Hybrids exist in a good many districts—in Mysore, Coorg and Nilgiris. I think Mr. Danvers' suggestion is a most excellent one. In a way it is rather working in with what I suggested in my annual report. There is the beginning of the Mysore Experimental Plots. We can get seeds of different varieties from all over the world and start hybridisation. What I would like to see is an experimental station, or two, under a local committee of practical planters to control it. It means a certain amount of trouble, as Mr. Hamilton has told us. He says I took an immense amount of trouble, but it was Mr. Hamilton who took all the trouble. Unfortunately we failed, but we gained a lot of experience from that failure. We can water *Arabica* from which we want to use the pollen and make that come out in a series and wait for the hybrids to flower. The sooner we start work on these experimental plots the better, and as Mr. Hamilton has a certain number of hybrids and seeds to spare, we can save a year or two by getting seeds from him. I can assure you that I will take all the care I can about this work. I do not think the difficulties are as great as some men seem to believe.

MR. DANVERS : I am sure Mr. Anstead understands that my reference to the London chemist is because our laboratory is not ready. As regards what you said about oil, I should like to tell you of the experiments made by Mr. Brooke Mockett, of Manzarabad. He sent samples of hand-rubbed and the ordinarily cured coffee to a chemist. The hand-rubbed one was very much smoother and a better looking specimen in the photograph than the other. It appeared to be full of oil whereas the other one was full of holes. Evidently the essential oil in that case had been rubbed out of it or in some way got rid of. He was very anxious at one time that curing should be done more carefully. What you say about hybrids is very informing, but it is possible also, is it not, that these hybrids may in time also become weak? Even a strong hybrid may in time become weak, and so I think a thorough investigation all round will be very useful so as to ascertain if hybrids show any sign of becoming weak. It is just possible that these new varieties I have referred to just now may be hybrids themselves and a very slight improvement and very slight cross will give us a good strain. This is all to be done at the experimental stations. And if we are to do anything we must take some little trouble in the matter.

MR. ANSTEAD : In Mr. Mockett's experiments what about the prices? Did hand-rubbed samples get better prices?

MR. DANVERS : He did not tell me.

MR. ANSTEAD : There is one very interesting difference in the West Indies between their curing and ours. A great deal of the coffee is cured on the estates. After pulping it is put into the Cacao Rotary drier and finished. We do not do that. I am only guessing, but this difference in curing may account for the difference in quality.

MR. DANVERS : There is another point as regards what you said about drying on the estate. In 1861 and 1887 tremendous experiments were made. We dried it under shade and then in the sun. We dried it entirely in the shade. There were about 15 or 16 different ways of doing it; but the net result was not encouraging. By the time they got to London they all arrived in the same state.

(To Mr. Anstead) :- May I ask you how long it will be before the laboratory will be in working order?

MR. ANSTEAD : By the end of November, I hope.

MR. DANVERS : Is there any possibility of your taking up this as soon as your laboratory is ready? If not, I should like the question to be taken up by a London Chemist.

MR. ANSTEAD : There is the question of expense. London chemists have a habit of piling up charges. I am not at all sure it is not a good suggestion, but it wants some working out. He should not get his samples in London.

MR. DANVERS : Samples of our coffee are already available in London.

MR. ANSTEAD: Mr. Hamilton has asked me to say just a word upon the possible requirements of hybrids for different districts. I cannot say anything definite. But for bug-resisting and disease-resisting coffee, which are not produced at present at Mysore, it will be better to go back to the third generation than to take fifth generation plants.

MR. DANVERS: Can any gentleman tell me anything about *robusta* or any of the new strains? Has any one grown it in India? I do not believe anything can be safe from leaf disease. At first it may be leaf-disease-resisting, but in course of time it falls a victim to disease. That is what happened to the Coorg variety.

MR. DICKINS: I do not think we get any disease on the Mocha variety. It has always been free from leaf disease, for 20 and 25 years.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Danvers, a point has just been brought to my notice. Do you wish the U.P.A. to bear the expense of this investigation?

MR. DANVERS: That was the idea of the resolution. Some proposals might be made as to coffee-producing districts sharing it if it is too heavy for the Central Association. I think we might arrange about the London Chemist if the Association cannot do it. Reference to the Coffee Associations might solve the point.

MR. PITTOCK: As far as our Association is concerned we should like our Scientific Officer to start the experiment. We are not with you about the London Chemist. The laboratory will be ready by the time the crop is on the trees.

MR. DANVERS: I will waive that point with pleasure. I only wanted to save time. I should prefer Mr. Anstead having it from the beginning.

MR. PITTOCK: It will cost between £50 and £60, quite—perhaps more—to get it done by a London Chemist.

The CHAIRMAN: While Mr. Danvers is drafting this resolution I should like to remind you about the exhibition of samples in the offices to-morrow. I hope people will come early.

Gentlemen, the resolution proposed by Mr. Danvers and seconded Mr. Parsons with the modification of "the Scientific Officer" being substituted for "the London Chemist"—is now before the meeting in committee.

The resolution was carried in committee.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN: I now put the resolution in open meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously, in the following form :—

- “ That in view of the decreasing yield, poor quality and increased liability to diseases of our present strain of coffee, the U. P. A. S. I. and the Scientific Officer be asked to persevere with experiments in Hybridisation steadfastly.
- “ That an endeavour be made to ascertain by searching inquiries, the quality, bearing capabilities, freedom from diseases, and general suitability of some of the new varieties, with a view to the procuring of seed for distribution, on payment, to the various Associations ; and that the Scientific Officer be asked to determine as far as possible what constitutes a good sample, to inquire into the important question of the essential oil of Coffee, and to generally advise us on the whole question of deteriorated quality.

The Conference then adjourned till 11 A.M. next day.

Third Day, Wednesday August 3rd

The delegates assembled at 11 A.M.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, this morning, the Hon'ble the British Resident, Mr. Fraser, has honoured us with his presence. He informs me that he has simply come here to listen. However, if any gentleman wants to ask him any question he will give any information he can. This morning we propose to deal with agricultural matters. Mr. Anstead, I think, will open on Rubber.

Rubber.

MR. ANSTEAD: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—

The most interesting problems to be solved in the future of rubber-planting are those in connection with improved methods of coagulating the latex and curing the rubber, and those bearing upon the possible relation of fertilisers to latex yield. The former are problems which must be solved in the laboratory, the latter in the field.

It has been stated that nitrate of soda, applied at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per tree a few weeks before tapping is begun, increases the yield of latex in Ceará, and I have already arranged some field experiments on a small scale to test this point. It is too early in the season for any results to be available, but they will be laid before you through the medium of the *Planters' Chronicle*, as soon as they are obtained.

Another point of interest is the possibility of obtaining a hybrid, by crossing Ceará rubber with one of the new Manihot varieties, which will be better than either. It would seem that there should be little difficulty in obtaining such a hybrid, since all of these varieties are species of the same genus, Manihot. I hope to be able to devote some time to this work, and shall be glad of co-operation in it.

There is a question with regard to the future of the Pará industry to which I wish to call your attention. A large number of the Pará trees planted in Southern India are already beginning to bear seed, and each year more and more will do so. The time will rapidly come when the demand for seed for planting purposes will fall far below the supply, and the question will then arise as to what use can be made of it. It has been estimated that each tree after attaining its fifth year of age produces a crop of 500 seeds annually, and that about 200,000 seeds go to a ton. If this estimate is only approximately correct, the crop of seeds from Southern Indian Estates will be very large.

In a report made by the Director of the Imperial Institute in 1905 it was stated that the seed contains some 20 per cent. of an oil which was then valued at Rs.300 per ton. The seed also contains 1.07 per cent. of phosphoric acid, but its nitrogen content is not stated.

Now, what I suggest to you is this: that the seed should be collected and crushed, the oil extracted, and the residue used as a poonac to manure the trees. This poonac should be a very suitable fertiliser for rubber, since its constituents have been gathered from the soil and air by the plant itself.

Further analyses, which I shall hope to make, will show its exact value as a fertiliser, and if the value of the oil can be made to pay for the extraction and crushing, estates will obviously benefit by the process.

My object in calling your attention to the possibility at this time is that in planning factories it may be taken into account, and provision be made in the horse-power of the engines laid down for the future addition of crushing machinery.

Probably the most economical method of handling the seed would be to establish central factories on a co-operative plan, which would deal with the seed of a district, crediting each supplier with so much oil, and returning to him so much poonac for each ton of seed delivered, an amount which could be controlled by a simple analysis of each sample, which a writer could be easily taught how to do by rule of thumb. This is a matter, however, for your consideration.

I would suggest that the advice of a skilled Engineer be obtained as soon as possible to recommend the best machinery for the purpose of crushing or stamping the seed and extracting the oil.

It seems to me that the sooner preparations are made to deal with the seed, which will soon be available in large quantities, the more likely we are not to lose time and a valuable source of manure for the rubber.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am sure these remarks of Mr. Anstead have opened a large field for thought and I should like to hear the opinions of some of the rubber planters on the question of seed.

(After waiting for a few minutes and finding that no one had any remarks to offer)

Gentlemen, We go on to the next matter, Fertilisers. Mr. Anstead will address us.

Nitrolim.

MR. ANSTEAD: Gentlemen, the subject I should like to bring before you this morning is the use of Nitrolim as a fertiliser. Until comparatively recently the only mineral nitrogenous fertilisers were salts like saltpetre, nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia. Lately, however, it has been discovered how to make the free nitrogen of the air combine with metals to form cyanamides, which are related to nitrates, and one such body, calcium cyanamide, under the commercial name of "nitrolim," is now on the market as a fertiliser. Trials made with it in England, at Rothamsted, and elsewhere, have shown it to be about equal in value to nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia.

I think that in all probability it will prove to be an excellent fertiliser for South Indian soils, because it is of a basic nature. In the soil, under the influence of water and bacteria, it splits up and undergoes changes, the final products being calcium carbonate and nitrates. The soils with which we have to deal are nearly always deficient in lime, and, consequently, a fertiliser which not only supplies nitrogen but at the same time Lime, should be of more value than one like sulphate of ammonia, which needs the presence of lime to be fully effective.

I have been in communication, during the past year, with several firms about this, with the result that Messrs. Peirce, Leslie and Co. have been appointed agents for this fertiliser, and are now prepared to supply it. By their kindness, I am able to show you a sample of the stuff to-day. You will notice that it is a heavy, dark-coloured, powder, very finely ground. It is guaranteed to contain 18 per cent. of nitrogen, and 24 to 30 per cent. of lime, and it can be mixed with basic slag, bone meal, superphosphate, and potash salts. During this mixing it may get hot, in which case the heap is watered, a plan which is probably advisable in any case, as the nitrogen is very fine and dusty.

The price, I understand, to be Rs.230 per ton at Calicut.

I should like to see definitely organised experimental trials carried out with this fertiliser on coffee and tea especially. It may be that it will not prove to be any better than the nitrates usually used, but I think that from its basic nature it is very likely that it will turn out to be just the sort of fertiliser for coffee soils.

The experiments which I suggest should be tried with it are as follows:—

1. Nitrolim, applied by itself in February or March, at the rate of 2 cwt. per acre, broadcasted and lightly worked into the top soil.

Cost Rs.23 per acre (exclusive of freight and application).

2. A complete fertiliser made of the following mixture:—

- 5 Basic slag.
- 3 Sulphate of potash.
- + Nitrolim.

This mixture will contain about 7.5 per cent. of available phosphoric acid, 11 per cent. of potash and 6 per cent. of nitrogen. It should be applied in February or March at the rate of 6 cwt. per acre.

Cost about Rs.46 per acre (exclusive of freight and application).*

[*Since the above paper was written information has been received from Messrs. Peirce, Leslie and Co., Ltd., that the price of Nitrolim has been reduced to Rs.200 per ton, at Calicut. This revised price brings the cost of the fertilisers used in the experiments suggested to about Rs.30 and Rs.42-8-0, respectively.]

Variations of these two standard experiments can be tried, and I hope will be tried; for instance, the quantities applied and the seasons of application can be varied, and in the mixture recommended, superphosphate can be used instead of basic slag.

Mr. Anstead then read the following extract from a letter he had received from Messrs. Peirce, Leslie and Co., Ltd., of Calicut :—

“We are further informed by our London friends that this fertilizer can be supplied in briquettes and they will be shipping us a small quantity as a trial packed in this way. The idea of course is that we should put these briquettes through our Disintegrator for breaking up but it remains to be seen whether it would be possible to break them up sufficiently fine by hand labour on an Estate. If this should be possible it should be rather a convenient method of obtaining the fertilizer.”

I would now suggest to the meeting that these experiments be carried out, in connection with the new agricultural experiments which we propose to start under the control of local committees in the districts. We might start with them at once. (Cheers).

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: You have spoken about briquettes. Do you think that pulverisation is essential to success? Must it be finely powdered?

MR. ANSTEAD: I think it is. Nearly every fertiliser should be as finely powdered as possible, because success depends on the intimate mixture with the soil of the fertiliser; so that it will be essential to get it fine. The point to test is, if we cannot break down the briquettes nearly as fine as the powder here. I will take the earliest opportunity of getting some briquettes here and seeing what we can do with an ordinary hammer to break them. If stored in the form of briquettes Nitrolim could not very well be affected by moisture.

MR. MARTIN: You have not told us anything about the solubility of it.

MR. ANSTEAD: It is fairly soluble in the soil. It has a chemical action rendering it soluble, which action will be fairly rapid, and the Nitrogen in it is very readily available. It will have about the same rapid availability as sulphate of ammonia.

DR. TRAVERS: Gentlemen, speaking as a chemist, I should say there would be great danger of wastage of nitrogen if the fertiliser is not broken down into fine powder. You will get generation of ammonia, which will go away into the air, and thus cause waste of nitrogen. There will be considerable danger of this if the stuff is not finely powdered.

The CHAIRMAN: Would it be affected by damp?

MR. ANSTEAD: How do you mean, do you mean spoiled?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. ANSTEAD: Only slightly. It will keep well.

The CHAIRMAN : I am thinking more of the journey from Cochin up to Peermade by the backwater.

MR. ANSTEAD : I have communicated with Messrs. Peirce, Leslie and Co. They are willing to send it up in kerosene tins, and I think it will be much better to transport it in these tins. Your district is rather peculiar in that respect. I think you get your sulphate of ammonia in double bags, do you not? In that case you can get this also in double bags.

Cover Plants for Rubber.

The CHAIRMAN : Gentlemen, unless you have any further questions to ask Mr. Anstead I will move on to Pests and Diseases.

MR. MURPHY : Before we go on to Pests and Disesses, might I ask Mr. Anstead one or two questions? I would like to know if Mr. Anstead personally knows of any rubber estate on which passion flower has been grown as a green cover for any length of time. It seems to me that a plant like *passion flower* which crops very heavily must, if left in for any considerable time, take a great deal out of the soil, and that the rubber in consequence must suffer.

Another question I wish to ask is, if Mr. Anstead can recommend a green cover suitable for growing under the heavy shade of old rubber, wherever it is bad. I had hoped that the mulch formed by fallen leaves would stop wash, but owing to strong wind just when the leaves fall these are blown into drains and ravines and do not lie evenly over the clearings.

MR. ANSTEAD : My answer to the first question is, I regret to say, in the negative as far as rubber is concerned. But I have seen cocoa under *passiflora* at least for four years running, with immense advantage to the cocoa. I am inclined to think that the mistake made in the case of *passiflora* in the case Mr. Murphy mentioned is of a twofold nature. First of all, the *passiflora* is allowed to grow too close to the rubber trees. It has been growing right up to the trunk, almost climbing up it. That is wrong. It is allowed to grow too long and too heavy. When it is sufficient cover to keep down wash then it should be cut; the cut stuff should act as a mulch, and the stumps be allowed to spring up again. But personally, I do not think that *passiflora* is by any means the best cover crop you can use. I think a plant like *Cassia mimosoides* is better fitted for this. It is the kind of plant that we want : light and feathery, letting air and sunshine through and breaking heavy wash, and in it you have got a plant that is sensitive. *Passiflora* is far too heavy, and that is a disadvantage.

With regard to your second question about the plant under shade, it depends exactly on what you mean by shade. There comes a time when nothing will grow under rubber, because light is shut out, and there is nothing which will grow without sufficient light. What I suggest in your case is that you should put up through your estates, at intervals of ten rows of trees, low wattle fences. They might be a nuisance, but they would be very useful,

The other thing is to have a wind-belt, but it is difficult to establish. I am afraid no plant will grow under dense rubber shade.

About impoverishing the soil, naturally *passiflora* and things like that take a certain amount of the soil, but you return it to the soil again. For the time being a little is drawn out, but it all comes back again, and that in a much more available form; so that in the end nothing is lost. In the case of any legume you are adding to the soil; you are getting nitrogen added, and in that case you are gaining something.

MR. DANVERS: Is it impossible to fork under old rubber in such a way as to minimise the wash?

MR. ANSTEAD: There is a danger of cutting the rubber roots. Personally, I have never seen any old rubber shade, if you mean by that trees of 20 or 30 years of age.

MR. MURPHY: We call rubber old which is nearly six or seven years. It has very heavy shade, and even weeds will not grow under it.

MR. BARBER: There was a plant—I think you called it *Desmodium triflorum*—that was found growing under fairly heavy shade in Travancore. Could not that grow under rubber?

MR. ANSTEAD: It is all a question of what you mean by fairly heavy shade. Mr. Murphy says even weeds will not grow under his shade. There must come a time when even *Desmodium* will not grow.

MR. BARBER: This was growing in the forest.

MR. MURPHY: *Crotalaria* will not grow under 7 years rubber.

MR. ANSTEAD: You might try and grow *Desmodium*, which Mr. Barber says grows under forest shade.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further question under the heading of Products and Cultivation?

Then we will go on to Pests and Diseases.

Pests and Diseases.

MR. DEANE addressed the Conference on the subject of "Green Scale" as follows:—

GREEN SCALE.

So much has been advanced in print latterly on the subject of combating the bug, that there is little room to add to the repressive measures now recognised as effective for keeping the pest under control. Hailing, however, from that part of a district where it has left its mark very wide, I have some notes which may be useful. The point of vital importance is of course to take to these repressive measures on the first appearance of the bug, and it is satisfactory to know that on the Shevaroyes, for instance, so long immune from the ravages of Green Scale but where it is now in evidence, a general and determined stand is being made to keep it from spreading. On the Nilgiris we had bug of all sorts for years

which no one seemed to mind, and when the Pulney came in, not only did many of us despise the enemy but we had not the present-day knowledge of meeting it. With our hard bought experience it should not get ahead of the Shevaroy planters. As regards the respective merits of brushing and spraying, it is found in actual working that the latter is not so effectual for "browning off" the bug *in toto* as brushing with Nicholson's mixture.

With Gossage's blue soap and refined saltpetre 1 lb. of each to 4 gallons of water, the spraying of *deciduous* trees is an easy matter; but with evergreen coffee Mr. A. G. Nicholson confesses that he only resorts to spraying as useful in keeping down the bug in bad patches, till the bushes can come round, as without an enormous expenditure of solution and care he has never succeeded in really getting perfectly clean trees by spraying. However, the most efficient solution he found for spraying is three pints liquid fuel (cost 1½ anna) to four gallons water, 1 lb. crude saltpetre (cost 2 as. 1 pie). Say, as an outside figure: 10 pies per gallon of solution.

He is now experimenting with a cheaper and what may prove even a more effective solution. It is made by putting shell lime into boiling water, adding liquid fuel in varying quantities, slowly stirring it in while the whitewash is boiling; and straining and diluting to suit the sprayers and to be the strongest possible, without causing injury to foliage, spike or berry. Local conditions change, and it is very curious to note that on the Shevaroy's the coffee trees will stand much more solution than on the Nilgiris; this means that the bug can be killed on the Shevaroy's in 5 or 6 hours as 20 oz. may be used, while on the Nilgiris with only 1 lb., or under, the killing process may extend to 24 or 48 hours. With liquid fuel it is the same sort of thing on the Nilgiris—3 pints to 4 gallons will kill the bug, while on the Shevaroy's it has been found that a much stronger solution is required to injure the trees; and then it does not satisfactorily kill the bug.

Brushing with the liquid fuel and saltpetre solution in the proportion of three pints liquid fuel and 1 lb. saltpetre to 4 gallons of water on the Nilgiris has given good results. It is useful in wet weather, as once dry it does not wash off easily and retains a pungent smell for a considerable period; but it is slow and costly in labour application without the soap lather which is absolutely indispensable for quick work to enable the brushers to glide over the berries without injury, also to show the brushers by the white lather what branches have been brushed. This white lather lasts quite long enough to show the brushers what they are about; but it is of course of a vapid nature, and a little chunam added to Nicholson's mixture, not strong enough to burn the brusher's fingers, yet sufficient to make a whitewash show, will be found useful in checking a day's work at a glance. Mr. Nicholson is now experimenting with the addition of liquid fuel in varying quantities to the soap and refined saltpetre solution to render it more effective, as it retains a strong smell for quite a length of time and does not wash off so easily in wet weather; but

it calls for the addition of more soap to obtain the necessary lathering (in proportion to quantity of liquid fuel added) but, he fears he would have to reduce the saltpetre and that would not do at all, on his theory that the droppings of the wash possess manurial value as a ferment to start nitrification in the soil, especially following on manuring with lime and phosphates, and also, as our Scientific Officer states, proving to be destructive to the inimical bacteria in the soil. On "Hallicarry," where systematic brushing is carried on with the soap and saltpetre solution, which I was privileged to see in company with Mr. Nicholson, this theory is well supported by the appearance of the coffee. It need hardly be added that whether spraying or brushing is resorted to it should follow pruning during the first quarter of the year and handling at this time of the year, to facilitate the operation of brushing and cheapen its cost, and every scrap of prunings and all *débris* about and weeds if possible as recommended by the Scientific Officer removed and cremated. By constant persistence in these repressive measures backed by the best field work that can be put in, the bug attacks should not prove of a virulent type, with every hope of keeping it under control. It is essentially a dry weather pest over which climatic conditions exercise of course a marked influence—or rather on the fungus which kills it wholesale—the wet starting the mildew. I brought down with me green leaves with the defunct bug taken from coffee where no spraying or brushing has been carried out and gave them to Mr. Anstead, who will tell you more about this natural enemy of the bug. It naturally follows that brushing or spraying must fall into line with seasonable conditions, such as will not cause any injury to spike or in wet weather (when it is of not so much value) and may possibly contend against the natural enemies of the bug. I do not enter into the cost of spraying or brushing, as relative data have been published in the *Planters' Chronicle*. Besides, it hinges on solutions used, the state of the trees with regard to wood and foliage, the virulence of the attack, and the class of labour employed. But if any one wishes for any information I shall be glad to tell all I know. I hope there are few in here who are in need of the information.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions to ask in the matter of Pests and Diseases?

MR. ANSTEAD: I should like to make one or two comments on Mr. Deane's interesting communication. I think the question of spraying *versus* brushing is largely one of our labour. I think undoubtedly spraying would be preferred to any method of brushing, if we had European labour. With cooly labour it is impossible to spray. The cooly does not like spraying; he objects to pump with one hand and to spray with the other. He will not do it unless he is watched the whole time. That is why I have given up recommending spraying. On the other hand he will brush trees; I think he rather likes it. The difficulty is not one of expense; it is the difficulty of getting enough coolies. Green scale when it

starts with a spell of dry weather spreads with magic rapidity. Unless you get at it in time it will be difficult to stop. With regard to fungus, Mr. Deane has exhibited a variety known locally as "grey fungus." There is also a white fungus in the Nilgiris and Anamalais. Both these when the monsoon breaks spread very rapidly, and naturally one would think that one could use them to fight the scale, by growing them and applying the spores as a spray, they being the natural enemies of the bug. But the great difficulty is this. This fungus, like all these moulds, will only grow under moist air conditions; that is, under monsoon condition. If you spray them on in dry weather nothing happens. The spores of the fungus simply wait for monsoon condition to grow. Therefore it is very difficult to use the fungus as a spray. Over and over again, in dealing with things of that sort, you are confronted with the difficulty of getting water. On the Nilgiris in some places when I asked people, "why don't you brush or spray?" they said, "there is no water." Really that is a deadlock. You cannot put a dry spray on, and under these conditions fungus will not start at all. In face of these difficulties, I have come to the conclusion that growing new hybrids, disease-resisting hybrids, is our only remedy. Where the bug has just begun, every effort should be made to put it down, and I am very glad to see that in the Shevaroyes they are making such efforts. The same thing may one day apply to Mysore.

MR. DANVERS: With reference to want of water, is it impossible to sink wells?

MR. ANSTEAD: So they say.

MR. DANVERS: Can you tell me whether the present custom of non-digging, which is adopted by planters through Dr. Lehmann's recommendation, has had anything to do with the spread of fungi in the soil?

MR. ANSTEAD: No, I am absolutely at one with Dr. Lehmann with regard to this practice, and I do not think it has had anything to do with the spread of fungi in the soil at all. One great reason why fungi have got hold of the soil is lack of drainage and the failure to use lime in a systematic way in your manurial system. That is my opinion. If you dig coffee, you are bound to break a great many of the roots, and there you are making an entrance for any fungi present. I think that non-digging, if anything, has probably checked the spread of fungi in the soil. What I recommend is including in the manurial system a heavy dressing of lime about every third year.

MR. DANVERS: If the fungi had already got into the soil, would it not be a good thing to stir up that soil and let sun and air in, as much as possible?

MR. ANSTEAD: No, I think you will get much better results if you will apply lime. I know that the principle is right of letting sun shine in to kill fungi, but in digging you will cut the roots.

MR. DANVERS : I once had a small plantation of Coorg coffee under Chicks, which grew very badly. I pulled them up and found they had carrot roots. On these carrot roots there was a lot of white, mildew-looking stuff. I cleared the pits and refilled them with other soil, and the supplies came on splendidly. I have never had any trouble since. I thought perhaps letting the soil get air and sun might be a cure for it, if the soil is not dug too deep.

MR. PITTOCK : I have been instructed by my Association to bring up the subject of "Black Rot" and to ask the Scientific Officer to give a very prominent place to it in his programme. Our Association has also asked me to invite discussion on this subject, with a view to find out what experiments, if any, have been carried out with "Black Rot" towards preventing, mitigating or curing this disease, and to ask the opinions of the delegates here as to whether they think the "Black Rot" is on the increase or decrease. It has been the opinion of my Association that it has been far worse during the last four or five years than it was previously.

MR. DANVERS : I cannot give any information of any value.

MR. ANSTEAD : With regard to "Black Rot" I recommended some time ago, towards the end of the last year, a method of experimenting with a view to controlling black rot. That seems to be what Mr. Pittock wants. Again, I would suggest if South Mysore start, as I hope they will, one of these experiment plots, that here is a thing ready to hand. What I wrote at the time was this :

"An experimental area should be chosen in a spot which is known to be annually attacked by Black Rot, otherwise no conclusive evidence can be obtained as to the possible remedial effects of the methods adopted. There must be some untreated bushes, under ordinary conditions, to serve as a standard of comparison.

"The selected area should be divided into plots of 25, 50 or 100 trees, as may be convenient (the larger the number the better), and I would suggest that these plots be treated in the following different ways :—

- (1) The soil heavily limed during the dry weather ; the lime being mixed with the mulch, and both lightly forked in.
- (2) The trees centred just before the monsoon begins.
- (3) The trees centred, and pruned, just before the monsoon begins.
- (4) The stems and primaries scraped just before the monsoon begins.
- (5) The stems and primaries white-washed just before the monsoon begins.
- (6) The stems and primaries white-washed, and the trees centred and pruned just before the monsoon begins.
- (7) The stems and primaries white-washed, and the trees centred and pruned at the usual pruning time.

"The cost of each method should be recorded, and also the possibility of the adoption of each method over a large area, taking the labour supply at the time of year into consideration.

"None of the plots experimented with should be manured, or if they are, all should receive exactly the same manurial treatment."

I have been purposely put down on the programme to visit Mysore in May in order to study "Black Rot." Last time when I went there "Black Rot" was at its worst, and it was useless for me to try to do anything to it. I want to be there before it starts, that is, before the monsoon breaks, because that is the time to try to control it. At the same time I want to discover what becomes of the fungus spores during the dry weather. I think we shall be able to take the matter up this year.

MR. DANVERS: As regards the greater prevalence of "Black Rot" I am inclined to think that the reduced stamens of our trees has something to do with it.

MR. PITTOCK: Do I understand you to say that it is on the increase?

MR. C. DANVERS: I think it is.

MR. TIPPING: As far as South Mysore is concerned we do not have it to any extent, but I am not in a position to speak on that.

MR. MURRAY-AYNSLEY: We have a little of it; the heavier the monsoon the worse the rot. I do not consider it worse than it used to be. The moment sun comes it disappears.

The CHAIRMAN: Has any other gentleman any information on the subject?

Then we will go on to Roads and Communications.

Roads and Communications

RAILWAY TO THE WEST COAST.

MR. PARSONS said:—

Gentlemen,—As regards Communications and the question of Railways, before I put my Resolution on the subject, I would like just to read to you what Lord Curzon told our deputation when they met him in 1902. He said:—

"Finally as regards Coorg it may be that planters themselves attach so much value to this line and are so confident of its success that they would be prepared to tax themselves in order to provide a special guarantee to hasten its construction. I dare say that this is a point which you have not yet considered and which I therefore do no more than submit to you on the present occasion. It enables me, however, to invest my reply with something of a practical nature; since what I have said comes to this, that if you wait for the line to take its place in the Government Programme there will probably be some delay; but if you want to hurry on the construction, then it is for the various interested Administrations or Committees to give a practical proof of their confidence in the commercial character of the undertaking by offering to back it in whole or in part themselves."

The Resolution I propose is as follows :—

“ That the attention of the Government of India be drawn to Lord Curzon's reply to the Coorg Planters' deputation in August, 1902. That the Province practically unanimously offered a guarantee on the through line, as suggested by Lord Curzon. That Government have taken no steps to give effect to Lord Curzon's recommendation and that the Hon'ble Mr. Fraser has expressed his opinion that the line will not be constructed for another twenty years.”

Gentlemen, with reference to this Resolution permit me to explain more fully. When we approached Lord Lansdowne, not to go further into ancient history, he told us that geographically no doubt a railway was indicated. Lord Elgin remarked that “ everything comes to him who waits.” The present Prime Minister advises those who wish to know too much to “ wait and see.”

Well, Sir, Planters are patient ; their industry spells patience—but hope deferred maketh the heart sick ; the word “ failure ” is not in our dictionary. However, we waited, and then again appealed to Lord Curzon. His reply, we admit, was practical and encouraging. The next facer—(we do not know what a knock out is) was a refusal of Mysore and Malabar (Madras) to join us or to guarantee anything. However, confident in our endeavours and the soundness of our scheme, we set about finding the guarantee entirely ourselves. Meetings were held in every taluq ; the Commissioner and officials rendered us every assistance, and practically the whole of Coorg, European and Native, voted solid that we should guarantee 4 per cent. from Mysore to Tellicherry. According to the figures and statistics supplied to us, with which I will not burden you—we were convinced that any demand on us was a remote contingency, and railway administrations have the means of so regulating rates that we should get favoured terms in regard to Coorg traffic in return for the guarantee. Although we had these suggestions from our Viceroy and although we have taken full advantage of his advice, what, sir, is the result of it all ? A Coorg deputation approached Lord Minto ; we were told to support Renard Road Trains (which the Directors of the M. and S. M. Railway refused to support) and Motor traction or cars. Is it unnatural if now just a little irritation reveals itself ? What are we to believe ? Why are we again put off ? History tells us that Governments are influenced at times by powerful interests. Some Railway Boards are stronger than others, and have a knack of getting their own way. But what are the duties of Government ? It is not only an executive body, but more than that. Where the welfare of a large tract of country and its inhabitants is concerned, no Railway Company or other body should be permitted to subordinate the interests of the people to suit its own purposes. We are generally of opinion that the M. and S. M. Ry. desires no line from inland to the coast direct as between Calicut and Marmagao ; and with the Erode-Nanjangud extension to be constructed, their opposition will probably become more

strenuous. But let us appeal to the Government of India and the Railway Board to at least be just to us.

Tellicherry, I may tell you, is some 100 to 200 miles nearer Aden than either Bombay or Karachi, and its potentialities would be worthy of attention to a passenger line of steamers. Our brother planters in Mysore, from friendly remarks made by Mr. Harris some time ago, would be only too pleased, I believe, to claim our success in view of the "sporting offer" we have made, naturally wishing at the same time to see their own line. Personally my opinion is that the M. and S. M. Ry. would view favourably any line into the interior provided it did not reach the coast.

I may draw your attention to an interesting article in the *Daily Post* of the 27th July on Light Railways in South India—which supports the views I have put forward—together with the Government's new terms of guarantee for branch lines, and I see in the Annual Report that Government have refused support to the Arsikere-Mangalore line if the construction by a private Company involved a guarantee. According to the new rules the Government guarantees $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and we guarantee Government that rate. But here again what are we to understand? From the Chairman's remarks there are other Associations that have been put off regarding bridges and roads; but I would most earnestly urge any of those interested and suffering, not to cease from worrying until something is done; and if such a course is eventually forced on us, do not hesitate to take the matter to the House of Commons (I see that a question has already been asked by Mr. Kelly regarding the Arsikere-Mangalore line): publish our case, agitate, advertise, make known our requirements; ask the Press to support us, make known what we can do; but under no circumstances resign ourselves to what some may think to be the inevitable. Forgive me for taking up so much of your time; but a question of this nature must carry greater weight when backed by a united body, representing as it does to-day and in this room, on enormous capital sunk in the industrial development of India. During the years I had the honour to be the Honorary Secretary of my Association this question of railway communication was very dear to me, and the linking up of the beautiful little Highland province of Coorg with the outside world would confer enormous benefits on that province. Railways create traffic, and I am convinced that Coorg would be no exception. You will excuse a degree of enthusiasm, for no man can ever but look back with affection to, and desire the prosperity of, a place where he has spent the best years of his life, many happy days, and made many friends.

MR. TIPPING:—I have nothing further to add to what Mr. Parsons has already said. I have much pleasure in seconding his resolution.

(IN COMMITTEE.)

MR. STUART FRASER (British Resident in Mysore) who was present, very kindly went at length into the subject of the Railway so far as Coorg was concerned. He said that from the time of coming

to Coorg he had felt himself pledged in honesty to discourage any hopes of getting that line. He told planters once more that there was little probability of a line being constructed through the District—pointing out that all the figures obtained hitherto went to prove that such a line would barely pay working expenses, let alone interest on the capital invested.

He also said that the Renard Road train, of which such great hopes were entertained, whilst being a success where the roads were suitable, would not be a good means of traction on the hilly roads of Coorg. He strongly recommended the planting community, however, to keep the subject to the fore, year after year, and to press for some alternative which might be eventually adopted by the Railway Company as a feeder to their lines.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Fraser heartily for so kindly attending the meeting and giving the benefit of all the information at his disposal.

MR. PARSONS said that he was very much obliged to Mr. Fraser for his remarks. He contended, however, that the figures put before them showed distinctly, taking the most unfavourable traffic estimates, that there might be a deficiency of Rs.1,31,000 annually on the cost of 35 lakhs. That was from Mysore to Tellicherry, including the ghât section. The Madras railway recommended that double rates per ton per mile should be charged, as the line was partially a ghât one. If they only increased the rate by half, it would wipe out this portion of the deficiency. Those were the figures the planters had been going upon and which they had been able to collect. From what Mr. Fraser told them there must have been some other figures brought in which the Darbar was not pleased to let them see. Mr. Fraser told them that the Railway Board were of opinion that it would not pay even working expenses; whereas these figures showed that it would pay 2½ per cent. They had all these figures collected when Mr. Fraser first came to Coorg in 1902. They had taken the most unfavourable figures. They would be very much obliged to Mr. Fraser if they could be given some further information to show that they had been entirely on the wrong track. According to their own figures, there was no question of the line not paying its way. The impression that they had in their mind was that the S.M.R. felt that if they could get a line from Erode to Nanjangud and on to Marmagao, with a longer lead, it would be better for them.

MR. DANVERS (addressing Mr. Fraser): With reference to what you have said about the Portuguese ghât line I would like to ask you, are you not of the opinion that there is a much richer population at both ends of the suggested line than there is at the two ends of the Portuguese line, better able to pay for the goods imported from the other side? Then again, is it not a fact that this Portuguese line pays very much better now after the war regarding rates has ended, since the S.M.R. has taken over that line? It used to be a dead loss, but I was told that since the management was taken over by the S.M.R. and the rates war ceased,

the dividends were considerably greater. At one time the S. M. R. took goods from this part of the world to the Portuguese Railway very much cheaper than such goods are now taken to Marmagao.

MR. FRASER said he was only too anxious to give any information he could, but it must be remembered that he was speaking without the books.

He then made some remarks about the figures quoted by Mr. Parsons, suggesting that later estimates put the cost of the railway at over Rs.1,00,00,000. He questioned whether *all* the planters in the district would avail themselves of the line, if it were constructed, for the transport of their produce, &c.

MR. PARSONS said that the Coorg Planters' Association were fully convinced of the desirability of the immediate construction of the line in the interests of the province generally, and that they thoroughly believed in the commercial prospects of the railway.

MR. FRASER : Mr. Aynsley, would you use that line if you got it ?

MR. MURRAY-AYNSLEY acknowledged that he was doubtful, but added :—" We would like it for other purposes."

MR. M. E. COUCHMAN said that he spoke as one who had formerly served in Coorg. It seemed to him perfectly clear from what Mr. Fraser had told them that the cost of the construction of the ghât railway made it impossible that it would ever pay. He (Mr. Couchman) had another suggestion, which had been in his mind for many years : that was, to press for a District Board Railway to the foot of the ghât to be made either from Mangalore or from Tellicherry for a comparatively small cost of 44½ lakhs, which would be quite sufficient. He thought that would be of immense value both to Coorg and the District of South Canara. At present the price of wood was prohibitive ; there was enormous timber in the ghât jungle which could not be worked by bullock carts. The building trade was suffering for want of timber. The price of firewood was also prohibitive. He would suggest that they consider the question of getting a District Board railway made, possibly by combination with Coorg, South Canara and Malabar.

MR. PARSONS : Do you think the S. I. R. will do it ?

MR. COUCHMAN : I do not know.

MR. DANVERS : What you said was perfectly right about the railway not serving a large number of planters. I do not think any railway which comes down the ghât can serve them. I think Planters are only pioneers. It will benefit Mysore too. While I agree that estimates are generally exceeded, estimates of returns are also exceeded. It was said that the extension on the West Coast would not pay. After the railway was made, a huge traffic grew up ; for instance, in green cocoanuts, never thought of before and also in other lines. Is it not possible that such a traffic may grow up here also ? Has Government contemplated the possibility of such a traffic ever growing on such a line ?

MR. FRASER touched upon the fact that, however necessary the line might be thought to be, united action on the part of the Mysore Government and the Madras Government had to be got. Planters had an enormously difficult task, as they had three Administrations to deal with. "Of the three," he added, "poor little Coorg is quite the least important."

MR. PARSONS: Will you allow me, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of all of us, to thank Mr. Fraser for the information he has given? We are sorry we shall not have an opportunity of worrying him a little more to get some more figures with regard to this scheme that he has told us will not pay. Mr. Couchman has given us a crumb of comfort so far as Malabar is concerned, and your (Mr. Fraser's) remarks about this railway affecting three interests are true; 40 miles goes through the rich country of Malabar. We realise it. I am still sanguine enough that it will pay. I think members of the Coorg Association will not give up trying.

MR. TIPPING: At any rate, we will try and have the half loaf. If we cannot get the railway, we will still go on trying to replace it with something else.

MR. DANVERS: It seems to me a question of time. I see two crumbs of comfort. If you get 40 miles of the line on the West Coast and if you see the possibility of the Mysore Government running a line to Hassan, then there is but a little tract to connect, but the time may be rather distant.

The CHAIRMAN: We are still in committee. I will put Mr. Parsons' resolution to the meeting. Do you think that this is strong enough, simply drawing the attention of the Government to Lord Curzon's recommendation. That has been done already.

MR. TIPPING: We want to keep the question of the railway before the Government. We do not expect a railway now.

The resolution was carried in committee.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

Chairman: I will put the resolution in open meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

ATTUR-TANDIGUDI ROAD.

MR. BARBER: This matter was before the Association about two years ago. It concerns a district that is not represented on the Association; but I think that is no reason why they should not have our consideration. There is a road from Attur to Tandigudi, in the Pulneys. This road was originally contemplated to be taken on to Kodaikanal. Rs. 4 to 4½ lakhs were spent on it. Then the Government decided to abandon it. Two years ago this Association requested the Government to reconsider the matter, and they did so and passed an order that the road should not be abandoned. Since then nothing has been done. The G. O. was passed on to the Madura District Board, who have done nothing in the matter. Eight or nine estates will be served by this road. There is a large traffic in plantains and also some in sawn timber.

I may say that the estates interested suggested themselves that they should tax themselves two annas an acre in order to get the road put through. The reply from the President of the District Board is that the District Board cannot find funds to put the road in repair, and the question of the future of the road is now before the Government." I think if the road is not repaired now it will get worse and worse every year, and if the work is not done soon it will get more expensive. I want this Association to pass this resolution: "that this Association requests the Government of Madras to make a special grant to the Madura District Board to enable that Board to carry out the necessary repairs and the up-keep of the Attur-Tandigudi Road, which is important to planting and other interests."

MR. DANVERS: I second the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask if that road is in any way connected with the road to Kodaikanal which is under construction?

MR. BARBER: The road was intended to go on to Kodaikanal but was stopped at Tandigudi. That, I think, is the terminus. One branch goes to Attur and the other to Iyempalayam and on to Ammayanaikanur.

The CHAIRMAN: The reason why I asked that is that at the present moment they are constructing a road, which they hope to finish within 18 months, right up to Kodaikanal.

MR. BARBER: That does not go through the Pulneys. Nothing has been done to this road since the Government Order. The Government Order has not been withdrawn. The matter has been referred back by the Madura District Board to the Government, and it is again under consideration. It seems absurd to be wasting time.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: For what traffic is this required?

MR. BARBER: From the Pulneys to Dindigul.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: You do not know if they have any alternative route to the railway open?

MR. BARBER: There is a track road from Dindigul *via* Attur to the Pulneys. I believe all the traffic has to be pack traffic. I am not quite sure if the Government have ordered the repairs to be done to the Attur-Tandigudi road. The Government Order was passed on to the District Board, that they should keep it in order. They say they have no funds. The estates interested offer to pay 2 annas an acre towards the up-keep of the road. They do not want the extension to Kodaikanal. It is Government's look out. They offer two annas on every cultivated acre.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: How much would this tax of two annas an acre produce?

MR. BARBER: The Association is not represented here, and I cannot get the information. The resolution which was passed at this meeting two years ago did call the attention of the Government,

They passed a Government Order on the subject. This is not given effect to for want of funds. It seems to me that if they keep the thing still under consideration they will want much more money after it gets worse. Our request was not refused. It was met. The Madura District Board must have a special grant to be able to do it, because they have not got the money to do it.

MR. ABBOTT : I have no wish to oppose any road of interest to planters. But when I was Chairman this subject was brought up, and I got a good deal of abuse for having allowed Mr. Windle to bring up this road, when we were asking the same District Board to spend more money on the road which was going to Bodinayakanur. I assure you that it is not in any feeling of opposition that I speak now, but it is more as a sort of warning, for we are asking Government for a lot of money for Madura and we are asking the Madura District Board for more money to be spent. I do not know how many planters are interested in that road.

MR. BARBER : Nine estates. Since you did allow Mr. Windle to bring the matter up, don't you think we should press the matter?

MR. ABBOTT : Nobody said a word of opposition to Mr. Windle, but they went for the Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN : Is there no chance of these estates coming into the Association again?

MR. BARBER : I will ask them. The letter of instructions I got from them asked me to protest; that is all. It is sufficient to protest. I wrote to one of the Under Secretaries on the matter; he promised to give me an answer, but I have not received one yet.

THE CHAIRMAN : I will put the resolution in Committee.

MR. MARTIN : I would just like to say in Committee that Associations who are subscribers of the U.P.A. are very desirous to ask for favours from the District Board of Madura; and I think that they might rather consider that their interests have been neglected if we wish to put the affairs of the Lower Pulneys, who are not subscribers to the U.P.A., before the Government. I would like this resolution to be held in abeyance until such time as figures are before the meeting to show whether we are justified in approaching or not approaching the Government on the subject.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : I do not like to appear to be against the resolution, but I strongly agree with Mr. Martin. I do not think we are justified in putting a demand like this before the Government unless we have the figures showing the necessity and the amount of money necessary for the up-keep of the road and the amount which will be produced by the two annas cess. If they are going to spend lakhs, I do not think we shall be justified in asking them to do so before we get this information.

MR. BARBER : The resolution that we passed on this subject two years ago was: "that this Association request that the Government of Madras will reconsider the proposed abandonment of the Atturghat road in the Madura district." That resolution was

seconded by Mr. Hamilton. It is not a question of pushing another district's business in preference to the districts in the Association. It is a question of drawing the Government's attention to the neglect of the G. O. they passed on one of our resolutions passed at this meeting. I think it would be good policy.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: I have no objection to the Association drawing the attention of the Government to the neglect, but I have an objection to asking Government for money.

MR. MARTIN: Or the District Board for money.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you the G. O.?

MR. BARBER: Well, the G. O. is available somewhere.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you can alter the resolution, simply pointing out the neglect. Instead of asking for a grant towards the road, simply point out that nothing has been done.

MR. BARBER: There has been rather a point made that the District in question is not in this Association, and when this is brought before the Association it receives scant consideration. It is not the way to get these estates to join the U. P. A. If we pass this resolution, they will probably be grateful, and say they will join. There are many reasons why we should pass this resolution.

MR. MEAD: You may argue the other way: if you do not take notice of their request they might see that it is because they have not joined us, and they might, therefore, join us.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Barber, what authority have you for saying that there is a G. O.?

MR. BARBER: I have only the authority of the people in the district.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is essential that you should quote the authority in the Resolution; and if we quote that G. O., we will have to specify the number and give the date. If that happens not to be forthcoming we will get into serious trouble.

MR. ABBOTT: Mr. Hamilton and myself appear to be mixed up in this business as partly responsible for allowing Mr. Windle to bring this question up. I would suggest as a compromise that the resolution be held in abeyance, for the sum required is not large; and when the G.O. is seen the Secretary should be authorised to write and call the attention of the Government to the neglect of this order. Perhaps that will meet Mr. Barber's wish? I had no idea when it was brought up that Mr. Windle represented the Pulney Association.

The CHAIRMAN: Would that meet your wishes, Mr. Barber?

MR. BARBER: Can it be left over till to-morrow?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, we might leave it till to-morrow; there is another matter coming up under Roads. Is there any other small matter coming up under this head?

MR. MARTIN: This afternoon I have got something to be brought forward under the same heading.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

Proposed Cess on Coffee Exported from India.

MR. TIPPING: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen; I have been asked by the Coorg Association to propose a Cess on Coffee. The resolution I move is:

"That in view of the letter dated 16th December from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, which reads as follows:—'In continuation of Mr. Wynch's letter No. 2880 dated 20th October 1909 informing you that your letter of the 5th idem containing the representations of the Association on the subject of the levy of a cess on coffee exported from this country has been forwarded to the Government of India. I am directed to request that you will be good enough to furnish further evidence that the Association's proposals in favour of a cess on coffee command the approval and support of the bulk of the coffee planters of Southern India whose produce would be affected by it. The Association may, perhaps, be unable to complete statistics of the coffee-producing area under cultivation, but some approximate figures proving that the demand for a coffee cess has the support of a very decided majority of a coffee planters, whether Members of the United Planters' Association of Southern India or not, are necessary before His Excellency in Council could give the proposal his support.' Secretaries of District Associations be requested to send in, at an early date the 'Statistics called for by Government to the Secretary, who is requested to submit these figures to Government together with a reiteration of our reasons for asking for this cess, and that the Planting Member of Council be asked to press this subject on the attention of the Government with a view to the cess being imposed at an early date."

I do not propose to go over the whole ground that has been covered in the past two years, as no doubt those interested in the subject have read what has been done; but there are one or two points which, I think, may require to be considered.

In the first place the amount it is proposed to levy is 3 annas per cwt. or 9 pies per maund of 28 lbs. It is so small that it cannot affect the price of coffee to any appreciable extent, and when it is considered that a large proportion of coffee from small holdings is sold in the country and a very small proportion of it is exported, it will be seen that the cess is not likely to affect the small holder to any extent, except in the form of the benefits he may derive, by the more active demand there should be for his coffee if the funds raised by this cess are properly used for the popularising of coffee. There can be no doubt, gentlemen, that we coffee planters in India are a long way behind our friends in tea, so far as making their product known goes, and though we cannot hope to do anything on so large a scale as has been done with tea, let us make the best of this opportunity, press our claims for this cess, and when it

becomes an accomplished fact, let us make the best use of the funds available in bringing our coffee before the public. To accomplish this we must in the first place be practically unanimous in our desire for the cess; and seeing there is so much in favour of it, every planter, when he really considers the matter, cannot but agree that it is a step in the right direction, and we shall be following in the wake of the tea planter, whose success we should hope to emulate.

MR. MURRAY-AYNSLEY seconded the motion.

MR. DANVERS: I have nothing to say except to give you the result of our local investigation if you care to have it.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. DEANE: In this connection our object is to promote the sale of good and pure coffee, and it will interest members who have not seen this circular just to hand by the last mail to know what Messrs. T. H. Allan and Co. have to say about the sale of substitutes such as chicory, etc., and adulterants such as acorns, etc. Messrs. T. H. Allan and Co. say, "certain substitutes, such as chicory and malt coffee, are sold, to a large extent, under their own names; but others such as acorns and chick-peas can only be used for purposes of fraudulent adulteration, and *"Le Courrier"* considers that it may be safely assumed that at least half of the above productions is so employed. On this basis, and allowing for the loss in weight of coffee due to roasting, the fraudulent adulteration displaces annually about 4,600,000 bags of raw coffee. The growers and consumers are not the only losers by this fraud, the various Governments suffer a heavy loss in revenue. If as is asserted, 40,000 tons of such substitutes are annually sold in France as coffee that country alone loses over £200,000 a year in duty."

MR. PITTOCK: I should like to remind delegates that when we addressed our memorial to the Viceroy, after the last meeting I think it was, we spoke of the London Chamber of Commerce and we explained in that that we wished this cess imposed, so as to collect funds to subscribe to the central scheme which was promulgated from the London Chamber of Commerce in 1907. You all know what I am referring to. Our representative on the London Chamber of Commerce Mr. Sanderson, sent us out a scheme and a resolution from the Coffee Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce, in which they said they thought that the time was ripe for a general propaganda to be undertaken on behalf of all coffee growing countries; and I understand the when we asked for a coffee cess to be imposed, the idea was we should take part in the scheme, and subscribe towards the central scheme of the London Chamber of Commerce for pushing coffee generally and not in any particular country. Do you intend that this money should be utilised for pushing East India Coffee alone, or do you wish, as was the original intention when we advocated this, that the money collected from the cess should go to the London Chamber of Commerce so as to enable us to take part in the scheme as it emanated from that body?

MR. TIPPING: I think that since this subject was first started there have been several developments and the Government of India pointed out that the amount that could be collected from this cess would be very small. The matter was then discussed, and, as far as I can understand, it was proposed that a proportion be utilised for the popularising of coffee specially in India, and that a proportion should be sent to the London Chamber of Commerce.

MR. PITTOCK: Will you give me the reference?

MR. TIPPING: I do not know if I can exactly.

At this stage the Conference adjourned for luncheon.

The members re-assembled at 3 P.M.

Roads and Communications.

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon Mr. Martin to open in the matter of Roads and Communications.

THE THENI BRIDGE.

MR. MARTIN spoke as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—It will be good news to you all to hear from me that it is the hope of the Planters' Associations concerned that this is the last time the Theni Bridge will be mentioned at a U.P.A.S.I. meeting. According to G.O. No. 649 L., dated 19th May 1910, estimates amounting to Rs.33,000 for constructing a masonry arched bridge across the Theni river have been sanctioned. The Government are prepared to make a grant of Rs.16,500, being a moiety of the estimated cost of the work from Provincial funds to the Madura District Board in 1911-12. The execution of the work has been entrusted to the District Board Engineer. We have the assurance of the Collector of the District of Madura that the work will be begun the year. My Association desires to thank the Planting Member of Council and the Chairman of the Association for the great trouble they have taken in the matter and for the successful issue to which they have brought it. I accordingly tender them our thanks. As the thanks of the U.P.A.S.I., are also due to Government, I propose:

“That this Association thank the Government of Madras for sanctioning the construction of a bridge across the Theni River, in Madura District, and for providing a moiety of the estimated cost of the work from Provincial Funds.”

MR. LEAHY seconded the motion, which was carried.

RAILWAYS.

MR. MARTIN next addressed the Conference as follows:—

MR. Chairman and Gentlemen,—A few years ago Mr. Hodgson, then representing us on the Madras Legislative Council, informed us that the Dindigul-Palghat Railway had been sanctioned by the Railway Board. As there is no sign of any work having been begun on it all this time, we can only conclude that the sanction of the Railway Board is only a permissive sort of thing and does not mean that the railway sanctioned is to be constructed. At the

time, however, we all thought that once a thing was sanctioned it meant the removal of any bar to the work being begun. My district is interested in this railway, and I am willing to support the delegate of any other district who may care to move a Resolution on the subject.

Just now I am asked to press the matter of the Vaigay Valley Railway. For three years, the District Board of Madura has collected a Railway Cess, which now amounts to nearly Rs.2½ lakhs. A portion of this, possibly half, will probably have to be handed over to that part of Madura District in which a share of the money was raised and which has now been formed into a new District known as Ramnad. But there will still be left a large amount available for the purpose of helping to guarantee the interest on the money which would have to be borrowed by the District Board to enable the Vaigay Valley Railway to be constructed. The line for the Railway has been surveyed, and estimates for its construction prepared, amounting I believe to Rs.25 lakhs. The traffic statistics collected by the S. I. Ry. authorities show that, if constructed, the line would be a paying one. The necessity for one is proved by the yearly growing traffic and the difficulties in getting carts and animals in sufficient numbers to carry our produce and the produce of the country. Apart from the financial question, the Railway would help to solve the problem of keeping the peace and promoting good order in that part of the Madura District. It is not necessary to go so far back as the dacoity of Mr. Garstin in 1886 nor to give you a list of the lawless acts which have been a feature of the road off and on from that date, but let me read to you an extract from a letter addressed to our Chairman, dated the 27th July by the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. Ramabhadra Naidu, Zemindar of Doddappanaikannur and Member of the Madras Legislative Council, "... even within a year many cases have occurred. A week ago there was a worse type of robbery; a number of females were waylaid, deprived of their jewels, and one of them was even outraged by the ruffians. . . ."

From every point of view, therefore, the railway is necessary. It is not much use approaching the S. I. Railway authorities on the subject, I fear. The imagination of those controlling that railway has been fired by the project of building a railway to Ceylon, much to the benefit of that Island and to the neglect of South India, which gives its name to the Railway, from which its splendid revenues are derived, and the interests of which, one would think, should be its first care. The line will have to be built either by a private Company or by the District Board of Madura. To take one idea at a time, let us approach the District Board first. Therefore, I propose:

"That this Association urge upon the District Board of Madura the necessity for taking in hand at an early date the construction of the Vaigay Valley Railway, for which they have facilities in the shape of the Railway Cess already collected, and to be collected annually in future until the necessity for it ceases."

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. W. G. H. LEAHY, and carried unanimously.

ATTUR-TANDIGUDI ROAD.

MR. BARBER: Gentle men, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution I moved with regard to the Attur-Tandigudi Road and move in its stead:

“That the Secretary be instructed to find out what steps have been taken with regard to the resolution passed by this Association two years ago.”

Mr. C. DANVERS seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any other gentleman wish to speak on the matter of Roads and Communications?

THE CALICUT PIER.

MR. MALCOLM: I should like to say just one word with reference to what has been said about the Calicut pier, *viz.*, that no information has been received. The erection of the pier has been sanctioned, and also a boat harbour.

The International Rubber Exhibition, 1911.

The CHAIRMAN: The next subject I propose to take up is International Rubber Exhibition of 1911. In putting this before you I can only say that I hope Southern India will take a very prominent part in this Exhibition, and that they will see their way to send an exhibit worthy of our rubber industry. We have seen a great many letters in the Press lately about Ceylon rubber and Straits rubber and Java rubber. and frequently disparaging remarks have been made about Southern India; and I think it is only due to our industry that we should show them at this exhibition *what* we can do.

MR. GUDGEON proposed: “That this Association do decide to support the Rubber Exhibition of 1911 to be held in London, that the Secretary be asked to arrange for space at the International Rubber Exhibition either by letter or by cable, that Mr. Richardson be requested to be our delegate, that a committee be formed to undertake all the necessary arrangements in connection with the Exhibition, and that the Association be indemnified against loss by the delegates of those Associations largely interested in rubber.

(IN COMMITTEE.)

MR. MURPHY: Will you be at Home at the time of the Exhibition, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: I hope to be.

MR. GUDGEON: How much will it cost?

The CHAIRMAN: All I can say is that the very small exhibit we sent from Travancore and Cochin on the last occasion cost us about £200, including the printing of a pamphlet and illustrations. As far as I remember, 75 per cent. of that expenditure in the last Exhibition was on the ground space and the doing up of the Court, but I cannot give you any definite figures from memory.

MR. ANSTEAD : At the last Colonial Exhibition in England, for the West Indian Cocoa Court, which was about the size of these tables as they are now, the room space plus the decoration of the hall cost about £200.

MR. MURPHY : What is the great hurry about the space ?

The CHAIRMAN : If we do not secure space now we are rather apt to be left out.

After a short consultation amongst the members the Chairman said : Mr. Ormerod thinks he has a catalogue or advertisement of the Exhibition in the office, and he will try and find it and put it before us to-morrow. This will give us some idea of the cost of space and of the conditions. Perhaps we had better leave the discussion of the matter in the meantime.

I propose now that we take up the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

MR. LEAHY addressed the Conference as follows on this subject :—

MR. CHAIRMAN,—As to the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea, you are aware, Sir, the planters of South India have been agitating now off and on for something like 15 years, and though we have met with rebuffs from the powers that be in our endeavours to get this most objectionable tax removed, we are not down-hearted, and we are determined to agitate until something is done for us. It is quite unnecessary for me to go into any arguments, as you must be heartily sick of hearing them. The subject of this duty has quite recently been given prominence in the Ceylon and Indian papers, and by the correspondence it is evident the feeling in Ceylon for the removal of the duty has increased, and it is being urged by Ceylon merchants and planters. I am sure we all regret very much that a representative from the Ceylon Association was unable to be present at this Meeting, and so we have lost the opportunity of knowing exactly what the feeling in Ceylon is at the present moment on this subject. The feeling in Ceylon for the abolition of this duty has no doubt increased, and in view of their growing feeling and of the news wired out last week from Home relating to the small majority of 43 by which a Resolution on Preferential Treatment was lost, and of the glaring instance of the recent Preferential Treatment afforded Ceylon in the matter of the Travancore Tobacco duty, I think, Sir, you will admit our case has been considerably strengthened, and this is one of the best opportunities we have had of urging our case against the retention of the duty. You may be aware that the decision of the Imperial Government to raise the duty on all imported tobacco was followed by a similar decision of the Travancore Government, who increased the duty on Jaffna tobacco from Ceylon

to such an extent as to prohibit its importation into Travancore. A hue and cry was at once raised by the Ceylon growers, and after a very brief agitation, the Ceylon Government took the matter up, and on representing matters to the Government of India and the Colonial Office the tax has been abolished, and an exception made in favour of Ceylon tobacco against all other imported tobaccos. Now, Sir, we naturally consider that if preferential treatment can be given so easily between two British Dependencies in one case, it can and should be done in another, and we consider we are now entitled to a similar concession from the Ceylon Government, and if the Government of India can reconcile its conscience so readily and easily to preferential treatment in the case of Ceylon tobacco I trust it will find no difficulty in doing so again in the matter of the tea duty. As far as we can make out, Ceylon's great objection, if not the only one, is the possibility of fraudulent re-shipping of Indian and foreign teas if the duty is removed, and an instance I saw quoted, which came to the knowledge of the Ceylon Planters' Association, is given of a Java grower wanting to suggest to a Colombo Merchant a scheme for the re-shipping of Java's tea as Ceylon. I take it Ceylon has never intended, and does not intend, to admit "foreign" teas in free, and any fraud of this kind can easily be detected by brokers at Home; and in any case I fail to see why it should become general, or what benefit can accrue to Indian or foreign teas (except, say, low Chinas) by re-shipping as Ceylons. What disgusts us so is the fact that the duty is hampering the expansion of markets and the trade—and it will be to our mutual benefit to make Colombo the centre of distribution direct to parts of the world.

Personally I am not in favour of threats of retaliation, such as I have seen in the Press by S. Indian planters, and think we should agitate still more, and rouse public opinion at Home, which I think is the only course open to us now, and this, I consider, cannot be done better than by bringing our grievance before the House of Commons, and I hope you are of the same opinion as myself that no better Member of the House could be found than Sir J. D. Rees, who is not only always sure of a hearing in the House but has before now interested himself in the Tea industry, and his opinion on Indian affairs is always respected. I, therefore, put the following Resolution to the Meeting.

"That this Association, having failed to obtain the abolition of the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea through the Government of India, do request Sir J. D. Rees to bring to the notice of the House of Commons the disabilities and disadvantages caused to South Indian planters by the retention of the duty."

MR. KNIGHT seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: Has any other gentleman anything to say on the subject?

(IN COMMITTEE).

MR. MEAD : I would suggest that we also ask the Colombo merchants to take joint action in this matter, as you know Colombo buyers are opposed to the import duty, as fully opposed as we are. It is only due to this import duty that we have had any trouble in the matter of green tea.

The CHAIRMAN : I think although Colombo buyers are against the import duty they are also in favour of a duty on foreign teas as well.

MR. LEAHY : It has never been admitted by the Ceylon Planters' Association.

MR. BARBER : I suppose this resolution has no reference to the resolution passed last year ?

The CHAIRMAN : Do you wish anything added to this resolution, Mr. Mead ?

MR. MEAD : No, I simply suggest taking action to get Colombo buyers to join us.

The CHAIRMAN : I put this resolution in Committee.

The resolution was carried in Committee.

(IN OPEN MEETING)

The resolution was put in open meeting and carried.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mead, how do you wish Mr. Ormerod to approach merchants in Colombo ? Through the Chamber of Commerce ?

MR. MEAD : I should send the Chamber of Commerce a copy of the resolution and ask them if they would take joint action in the matter.

The Anti-Tea-Duty League.

The CHAIRMAN : The next item is the Anti-Tea-Duty League. Has anybody anything to say on the subject ? Nobody having anything to say, that goes. I think we now come to Green Tea. I will ask Mr. Mead to address the meeting.

Green Tea.

MR. MEAD made the following speech on the subject :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I have been asked to bring before the Meeting the question of renewing the bonus on Indian green teas.

The bonus, you will remember, was stopped in January 1909 at the half-yearly Meeting of the Indian Tea Cess Committee, on the grounds that the industry did not appear to be likely to become self-supporting.

At that time there were certain obstacles in the way, which are now likely to be removed. South India was practically cut off from the Calcutta market by cost of transport. Colombo buyers could not handle the teas in their finishing factories, owing to the prohibitive

import duty, with the result that supplies had to be drawn entirely from the Northern Indian Districts. A good many attempts were made up north to finish the teas on the estates, which, as in Ceylon, proved to be an only moderate success. The fact of it is that finishing is a highly technical affair, and teas have to be finished, and firms are not likely to do this unless they feel assured that they will be supported by the producers in every way, and can reasonably hope to build up an important and permanent business.

The producers of tea, on the other hand, will be benefited by having an alternative market for their teas and will be able to manufacture black or green tea, according to which is paying best at the time.

The fact that the firm I allude to is one of the largest buyers of green teas in Ceylon, and is in touch with the market, is, of itself, a guarantee that we shall not repeat the mistakes of Northern India with regard to finishing and finding a market for our produce. Our climate admits of our supplying tea all the year round, and I can see no reason why South India should not gradually capture a fair share of the American market, to the benefit of every producer of black teas. The object of the bonus is to cover the first cost of installing green tea machinery and further to cover the extra cost of manufacture. The teas have got to get known to be appreciated, and until this is the case are not likely to fetch their full value. Our claim for the bonus is legitimate, as we have paid regularly towards the cess, and for the reason I have given we were not in a position to benefit by the bonus when it was available to the North Indian Planter. We have in different ways to meet the requirements of the various small buyers who make up the market, and this can only be done by a firm who is in close touch with them. In Ceylon, where the green tea industry is anything but moribund, I do not think a single estate now attempts the work. In addition it was found that partly owing to the above cause and partly owing to the fact that Northern India does not produce all the year round it was difficult to fulfil repeat orders successfully. On the other hand, if we now encourage the production of green teas we have every reason to suppose that we shall start, in South India at any rate, an industry which will in a year or two be self-supporting, and which in the course of a few years will relieve the black tea market of a large quantity of tea. This, gentlemen, is an important matter, and is the safest form of insurance against over-production that we can provide. A market cannot be won in a moment, but takes years to build up, and it is far wiser to make a start at once while our production is not excessive. An important firm has signified its willingness to open properly equipped finishing mills in South India, and is ready to buy crops of unfinished greens at reasonable prices. This firm will need to risk a large sum in the business. Mr. Blechynden has signified his approval of the suggestion to renew the bonus, and I feel sure the Indian Tea Cess Committee will listen to our request, if we can show them that the tea producers of South India as a united body are in favour of it being given a trial.

I beg to propose the following Résolution :—

" That the U. P. A. S. I. approach the Indian Tea Cess Committee and request that a bonus of six pies per pound on four million pounds of green tea be allotted from the funds at the disposal of the Committee in order to encourage what it may be reasonably hoped will become a self-supporting and expanding industry in the near future."

MR. MARTIN seconded the resolution.

(IN COMMITTEE).

MR. BARBER: I should like to know if there are any more arguments in favour of your proposition to come forward.

MR. MALCOLM: I have got an argument in favour of it, but I should like to know what Mr. Barber has got to say.

(IN OPEN MEETING).

MR. BARBER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have been instructed by my Association to oppose a resolution in favour of a bonus on green tea. It may be that Mr. Mead will wish to stultify the action of the Nilgiris because some properties there have large local sales, so, paying little or nothing to the cess funds? have not much right to pass an opinion on how the cess money shall be spent. Doing this would mean that Mr. Mead has a bad case indeed, and with my high opinion of Mr. Mead's ability, I would argue that no one knows better than Mr. Mead how bad his case is. The most plausible argument, as far as I can see, in favour of a bonus on green tea is that every pound of green made makes room for a pound of black in the markets of the world. What would happen if all the tea made in India were exported and paid the cess? It would not mean that people in India would be foolish enough to give up drinking tea, but it would mean a large check on consumption; a very serious check, I think you will agree. The truth is that those estates which with patient energy and much trouble have worked up large local sales, have fostered the tea consumption in India, some of them have a large native clientèle; they have benefited themselves and the consumer in doing this, but they have also benefited the producer to an extent that we cannot calculate. Yet, gentlemen, I have never heard that one of these estates has asked for a pie from the cess funds to help them along, to buy their tinning and packing machinery, to pay for their expensive advertising. As such they are an example that it would be well for all green tea manufacturers *in posse* to follow.

Although my Association has asked me to oppose this Resolution, we do not oppose it in any hostile spirit. We oppose it because we think it very bad business to pay for what can be had for nothing. Because we do not think the bonus necessary considering the present relative prices of green teas and common black teas. Because the green tea industry, although it may be considered new in South India, is far out of its experimental stage. Because we believe that it is a mistake to bolster up unnecessarily an industry and to inflate it beyond its proper expansion by artificial aid, for it is possible

that when in due course the bonus is withdrawn, a large amount of common black tea may be thrown on the market at an awkward time. Because we believe that the money can be spent with more advantage in pushing black tea and green teas side by side; and because we think it is a mistake for this Association to approach any outside body, be it a Government or other, without a good and well considered case behind it.

Mr. Romilly, in a note on this matter, said that he thought it would be more profitable to make black teas with the market at about its present level. With regard to those estates that are likely to make green tea, I do not think that that is the case.

We hear of recent contracts for green tea being made at 43½ cents. in Colombo. Now 43½ cents is equivalent to 8½d. in London—to add a bonus of ½ penny per lb. to this fine price would be to paint the lily with a vengeance, even allowing for the slight extra cost of production.

It has been argued that the bonus would be a fair compensation for the cost of equipping factories with green tea machinery. What man making black tea would not re-equip his factory, if by doing so he had a chance of improving his prices 1d. a pound?

It cannot be argued that the bonus is necessary to start the industry in South India for this is far from being the case. When the subject was first mooted by the Wynaad the Honorary Secretary wrote:—"Messrs. H. and C. have decided" and again "Messrs. H. and C. have been promised." Apart from this I have seen it stated, authoritatively, that certain new factories are to be equipped to deal with black teas or green teas, and one factory at any rate has the machinery ready to erect.

We know that Messrs. H. and C. are the firm that deals in green teas in Ceylon. This is no new industry to them, and we may safely assume that that well managed and pushing firm will know exactly what to do with the South India green tea they may be called upon to handle. If that is not a sufficient argument let me give you these extracts:—

"With regard to the outlook for tea I myself do not believe that at any time in the history of tea it has had a better outlook than it has to-day. . . . We have it under consideration whether during the next few months we should not convert a large portion of our crops into green tea. Many of us believe that if that were done, we should not only make contracts for forward sales for year, or possibly two years, but we should make them on a basis that would yield us a better profit than we have hitherto made in tea. That is a subject which we are going into very carefully, but I am inclined to think that it would be a wise thing to do,"

How much wiser, how much better profit if the bonus of ½d. were super-added.

Those extracts are from a speech of a gentleman who knows exactly what he is talking about, exactly what he wants. The gentleman is Mr. C. A. Lampard. As far as the matter in hand

goes we might look upon him as the connecting link, as he is connected with large planting interests in South India and he is not unconnected with Messrs. H. and C. But this is merely a coincidence, Mr. Chairman, for you and I have it on good authority that Mr. Lampard cannot serve both God and Mammon. Perhaps this can be done departmentally like other things, and I must own it tickles my fancy immensely to think of Mr. Lampard keeping up his end in England in a top hat and frock coat while the Mammon department is working in the East. Seriously, however, we must listen with respect to what Mr. Lampard says, and he has adduced two forcible arguments why the bonus should not be given, namely, the present rosy outlook for tea in general, and the probably increased profits that will accrue from making green teas. What does the bonus amount to? It amounts to a present of but a paltry Rs.20 an acre for the estate that makes green teas. This Rs.20 might go in extra profits to proprietors, in extra dividends to shareholders, or it might be used in other ways. It may be that you, selfish gentlemen from the prosperous coffee districts, when you have no struggle for existence, would sooner see the sympathetic Superintendent damned than tacitly support a Resolution which will give him an extra Rs.20 an acre with which to take an intelligent interest in his coolies. That would not be nice of you.

Not on selfish grounds, but on the grounds that the Resolution before the meeting is ill considered, I ask you to support this amendment.

At the conclusion of the speech he moved the following amendment:—"That this Association express its satisfaction at the prospect of the immediate restarting of the green tea industry in Southern India and place on record their appreciation of the action of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield in proposing to establish a finishing factory in South India, and further do approach the Indian Tea Cess Committee asking them to allot from the funds at their disposal a sum of Rs.1½ lakhs to be utilised in the first place in advertising the produce of what may be confidently expected will be a self-supporting and expanding industry from its inception."

MR. DANVERS seconded the amendment.

MR. ABBOTT: May I ask of Mr. Barber if Mr. Romilly does not intend to ask for this?

MR. BARBER: I do not think so.

MR. ABBOTT: Mr. Romilly, writing to me, says, 'count my teas out; I am not going for green tea.'

MR. BARBER: I will read out what he said:—

"I have hitherto considered that the most profitable employment of Cess money has been on advertising and pushing the sale of black tea in the U. S. A. and on the Continent. The drawback to spending money on pushing the sale of green tea has been in my opinion that there is no continuous supply of it and repeat orders cannot be executed. This I believe to be due to the fact that it is more profitable to make black tea when the market is at about its present level, I should like to know if the Associations who want

this grant of Cess funds have considered this point and if they are prepared to continue the supply of green teas even though at the moment the black tea market promises the better returns. This I think is the chief point to consider."

MR. ABBOTT: The mere fact that I asked for a bonus implied that it was a necessary step towards it. In my subsequent letter I wrote to Mr. Romilly that that was one of the conditions for starting the factory; and that if the bonus was not given it was practically intended to go to Java and start a green tea finishing factory there; and that the opportunity would be lost to S. India.

MR. BARBER: It is quite definitely settled that the factory will be started. I may say that the estates are prepared to equip their factories with green tea on this promise. In fact, one district is entirely ready to equip.

MR. MARTIN: The proposal is to ask for a bonus on a limited quantity of tea.

MR. BARBER: I hope that Mr. Mead will really see his way to support my amendment.

MR. MEAD: I do not understand the soundness of your arguments.

MR. MALCOLM: There are one or two points which Mr. Barber has raised, about which I would like to say a few words. He objects to the bonus apparently on the score that it is in a way subsidising green tea. I think we ought to take the view that we have a certain number of different bushes growing and we have to get rid of the produce from them. It does not seem to me to matter very much whether we get rid of it in green or black tea. If receiving a bonus would prevent the planting of a further supply of tea I can see it might benefit us. I am speaking entirely as a black tea grower and have no intention of making green tea myself. Mr. Barber advocated advertising green tea side by side with black tea and at the same time he wishes to stop the production of a really good quality of green tea, which is very necessary apparently to establish a good green tea trade.

MR. BARBER: I never said so.

MR. MALCOLM: You said they ought to be advertised side by side.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. BARBER: I think Mr. Blechynden when he is pushing tea in America may come across a man who says he does not want black tea. Then Mr. Blechynden puts his hands in the other pocket and says, "here you are, my friend, here is green tea; have which you like."

[IN OPEN MEETING].

MR. MALCOLM: The point I am trying to make is that if Mr. Blechynden is to supply green tea, it is necessary that he should supply green tea of the right and proper quality which apparently

it is difficult to obtain; for the simple reason that it is difficult to get an even grade unless there is some large establishment for finishing green tea and supplying the standard quality. Mr. Barber has taken exception to the bonus again on the score that it is a very heavy one per acre; that it amounts to Rs.20 an acre. If so it does not seem to me to be the outside figure to have to pay for the requisite machinery that is necessary to put on to an estate to enable the manufacture of green tea to be properly carried out. It does not seem to me to matter a bit—I speak as a black tea producer—as to which tea is manufactured or how it is manufactured, as long as we get rid of the tea whether black or green; and it seems to me that by encouraging the production of good quality of green tea, we should be pushing indirectly the black tea business; because we relieve the market of a certain quantity of leaf, irrespective of what coloured tea it is made into.

Mr. MEAD: Mr. Chairman, the attitude of the Nilgiri Association in opposing my Resolution appears to me to be open to very severe criticism. I can hardly think that the question of the green tea bonus can have received sufficient attention when the matter was discussed at their last Meeting. I can quite understand that Mr. Barber cannot get away from the instructions he was given as the Nilgiri delegate, but I trust that the matter will be again considered by his Association and more intelligent appreciation of the salient points in question be evinced.

Their argument amounts to this, that they are of the opinion that the money could be better spent by Mr. Blechynden in advertising. Against this we have the opinion of Mr. Blechynden himself and the united opinion of all the South Indian tea districts except the Nilgiris.

Only two days ago this Meeting supported the Anamalais and Nilgiris on the question of Government purchases of Cinchona bark and requested that in order to keep a moribund industry alive an artificial value should be placed on the product. We asked this not as philanthropists but as producers of bark. This is Protection carried to its utmost limits, and may or may not be economically sound. To-day we ask the Nilgiris to support a temporary subsidy for a new industry, and they refuse. Their attitude is neither consistent nor reasonable.

The fact that an important firm of tea buyers should be thinking of opening a business in South India and will be in position to buy both black and green teas from South Indian producers and thus offer an alternative market appears a matter of no moment to the Nilgiri Association. In common with other Associations my district realises the importance of this innovation and hopes to see the day when other Colombo firms will open in South India and monthly sales will be instituted.

I cannot help thinking that the attitude adopted by the Nilgiri planters is obstructive and unreasonable. With all respect to the Nilgiri Planters' Association they represent a very small proportion of the South Indian tea industry, and while this should not prevent

them having an opinion of their own it should make them chary of running exactly counter to the unanimous opinions of their more important neighbours.

Possibly the most amusing and amazing point is that the Nilgiri tea planters are greatly interested in the local sale of packet teas. I need instance only Glendale and Kodanaad. These teas do not subscribe a penny towards the Tea Cess funds, but the representatives of these properties solemnly offer their opinion and advice as to how these funds should be administered.

MR. BARBER: May I speak in reply?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. BARBER: With the permission of the Chairman and my opponent may I speak in Committee?

(IN COMMITTEE)

Gentlemen, Mr. Mead has not refrained from drawing your attention to my support of the Cinchona resolution of yesterday, and he wishes you to understand that since, with my usual childish simplicity, I have supported that resolution, I must of necessity support the resolution before us now. This is not so, I can with the clearest conscience support the one and oppose the other. The cases are not on all fours. I did not speak in support of the cinchona resolution, it was impossible for me to do so, Mr. Brock had used all the good words. In the case of cinchona we have, if it pleases you to take it in that way, passed a resolution to bolster up a moribund industry, but in doing so we have given a substantial *quid pro quo*. We have brought forward a matter of national importance, and I cannot understand how any far-seeing man, in sympathy with his labour, can contemplate without a shudder the possibility of a quinine-less future. Now what is the Green Tea Industry? This is no moribund industry, it is a bouncing baby of an industry, a healthy baby that wants no patent food to make it fat and ungainly while small, and to kill it before it reaches its prime.

The help we ask for cinchona would give is a preference against Java, while the bonus would be a preference against Ceylon. Can we take this preference in the face of the resolution passed here last year? If we could, would it be advisable? It is argued that every pound of green made makes room for 1lb. black, but might not a pound of bonused green displace a pound of unbonused black, and logically might not the preference disorganise the Ceylon Green Tea Industry to the detriment of Black Tea?

MR. MEAD: Mr. Barber made a point—he was rather doubtful about my intelligence—and he explained that it was unfair that I should twit the Nilgiri planters with selling packet teas. But the fact of it is, I do not think they have done that to spread the sale of tea in Southern India but rather to get enhanced price for their low grades and get better prices for the remaining tea in the open market.

MR. BARBER: It is not by packet tea we effect local sales.

The CHAIRMAN : I will put in committee Mr. Barber's amendment.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Mead's resolution was then put in committee and carried.

[IN OPEN MEETING.]

Mr. Mead's resolution was put in open meeting and carried.

Quality and Curing of Coffee.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tipping, have you anything to say about quality and curing of coffee ?

Mr. TIPPING, addressing the Conference on this subject, said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—I have been asked by my Association to again bring forward the question of the reduction of curing charges on coffee. You are all aware that the question called forth a lot of correspondence, which resulted in very little good. The curers, with the exception of Messrs. Volkart Brothers, who expressed their willingness to considerably reduce their charges, expressed their inability to make any reduction. Since then they have offered a rebate of 5 per cent. on cash payments and have also discontinued the half per cent. charge on cheques ; and though this is a step in the right direction, we still hope to see a further reduction in their charges. They appear hard to move in this direction, and we should, I think, as an alternative, ask for a gradual improvement in their curing machinery. In speaking of this I am afraid that in my opinion it is hopeless to ask them to reduce the charges. I move in the matter now at the request of some members of our Association. I think it will be good to ask them to move in the matter of improvement in curing itself. I don't know whether I am in order in mentioning names.

MR. DICKINS : Yes, you are.

MR. TIPPING : Messrs Volkart Brothers offer a reduction below the usual charges of Rs.10 per ton. If we could get others to come into line, I think everybody would be perfectly satisfied. But I think if we can get them to improve their machinery we shall get better results rather than by getting them to cut down their charges. My Resolution on the subject is as follows :—

“That coffee curers be once more approached with a view to their further reducing the charges and bringing them into line with the terms offered by Messrs. Volkart Brothers, and that they be asked whether they cannot make improvements in the curing machinery in the event of their being unable to make a reduction.”

MR. DICKINS seconded the Resolution.

MR. DEANE : I would like to ask Mr. Tipping if he has any suggestion to make about the improvement to be made in the machinery ; because some years ago our Association did exactly the same thing, and the curers in Coimbatore then brought their machinery quite up-to-date. So far as I know there is no room for improvement.

Mr. TIPPING: It will be most difficult without some engineer seeing what exactly is the machinery each firm uses and what it is wanting in. My experience in our own curing works is that the machinery wears out in time; and curers are rather backward in recognising this fact. There is no doubt about the fact that by getting more up-to-date machinery better results may be arrived at. There is one thing which I might mention which perhaps is not connected with machinery, and this is that we had a report the other day about East India coffee; and they tell us they do not wish the silver skin entirely removed, as that will alter the recognised character of such coffee. It is usually thought that well polished coffee which has an attractive appearance will necessarily get the best price. I was surprised to learn from our brokers that they did not wish the silver skin entirely removed, as it would destroy the character of East India coffee. Another thing to be noted was that old machinery is apt to squeeze or press the essential oil out of the bean to a certain extent, from the fact of its not peeling as quickly as it otherwise would, were it new.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put Mr. Tipping's resolution.

Mr. DEANE: I believe, Sir, there is a combine amongst other firms, and I think they will never come down in their rates.

[IN COMMITTEE.]

Mr. LAKE: I should like to ask Mr. Tipping whether, as a coffee curer—I understand that he does curing work—he is of opinion that the charges can be reduced considerably and still leave a profit to the curers.

Mr. TIPPING: I am not altogether in a position to answer that question, as our firm takes no outside work. All the work done is for ourselves. We do not calculate profits in the same way as others do. I think there is a margin of profit. But it all depends on what employment can be given to the staff during the off-season. I think Messrs. Volkart Brothers most probably are able to undertake it cheaper than the others because they have many outside things and they can send their men out while the coffee works lie idle.

Mr. DICKINS: That is so.

Mr. DEANE: Mr. Tipping's resolution is very little good to us Nilgiri planters. Because, Messrs. Volkart Brothers' works are somewhere in Tellicherry, and we never can send our coffee there.

The resolution was put in committee and carried.

[IN OPEN MEETING]

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution in open meeting, and declared it carried.

At this stage the meeting was adjourned for the day.

In the evening a group photograph of the members of the Conference was taken.

Fourth Day, Thursday, 4th August.

The delegates re-assembled at 11 A.M. to-day.

The CHAIRMAN: Before going on with the ordinary business of the meeting, Mr. Anstead has got a paper to read and some specimens of a bean which he wishes to put before the meeting.

The Soy Bean.

MR. ANSTEAD: Gentlemen,—I have received this morning this letter from Mr. Ingle. [The letter, which gave cover to a paper on the Soy Bean, was read.]

Mr. Anstead proceeded to say: I will now read Mr. Ingle's paper on soy beans. It is not very long.

Glycine Hispida.

THE SOY BEAN.

Genus and Habitat.—*Glycine*, the leguminous genus to which the soy and its many varieties are referred, comprises from 12 to 16 species of Oriental, tropical herbaceous plants. Of these, one, under the specific name *hispida*, is cultivated not only throughout the tropics, but also in some of the sub-tropics as well. Africa, India, the Malay Archipelago, Australia, Cochin-China, China, Manchuria, "the sunny isles of the Pacific," and Japan are all among the regions of its culture. The more important centres of its cultivation are Eastern Bengal, Assam, the Khasia Hills, Manipur, and the Naga country. In Burma it is grown to a limited extent. The results of the researches of Heberlandt and others have contributed towards its introduction into Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary and France); while, despite the fact of its cultivation in America (United States) being so recent as to be regarded but as new, it has already made much headway there. But, of all the centres of its cultivation, Manchuria claims to be regarded as chief, for, though "known facts and historical probabilities tend to show that the species was wild from Cochin-China to the South of Japan and to Java," the fertile basin of the Amur river and the great plain of Lian-tung have been its home as a crop from antiquity.

Analysis.—The following analysis, which is the mean of eighteen analyses of the bean grown in various parts of the world, gives some general idea of the approximate value of its contents:—

Water	11.73 per cent
Protein	34.11 "
Fat	16.59 "
Nitrogen free extract	27.91 "
Fibre	4.40 "
Ash	4.39 "

The bean is said to contain no starch. The cake left on expression of the oil, contains "about 40 per cent. of easily assimilable flesh-forming foods."

Soil.—This bean grows well on light soils in Bengal, and can be sown as a mixed crop with Juar or maize in July. It requires neither manuring nor special cultivation. If sown in July, it should be ready for harvesting in November or December. About 20 seers of seeds are required to sow an acre of land, and the average outturn is approximately 6 maunds to the acre. This is the result of small experiments only, and could probably be considerably improved in suitable localities, and with special cultivation. Experiment alone, however, can actually determine this latter point.

Cultivation.—The soy bean grows most satisfactorily on soils of medium texture containing fair quantities of potash, lime and phosphoric acid. It is said that good results have been obtained on comparatively light soils, and that an abundant crop is sometimes produced on land too poor for clever.

In South Carolina, good results have been obtained on sandy, limestone or marshy soils and also on drained swamp or peaty lands. If the soil is lacking in potash or phosphoric acid, these constituents must be supplied in the form of artificial manure. It is not necessary to apply nitrogenous manures, since the Soy bean, like other leguminous crops, has the property of extracting Nitrogen from the air, and thus enriching the soil in which it is grown.

The cultivation of the Soy bean is carried out in much the same way as that of ordinary field beans. The soil should be well tilled, and left smooth and free from clods. The seed is best sown in drills, from two to three feet apart, the exact distance depending on the texture of the soil. The amount of seed required is about one-half to three-quarters of a bushel per acre, enough being sown to give on the average five or six plants per foot in the row. After sowing, the land must be kept fairly free from weeds, and the surface soil must be occasionally broken up. The pods are usually harvested before they are quite ripe, as otherwise they are liable to burst on drying, a loss of seed being thus occasioned. The plants may be pulled up by the hand or cut with a scythe. They are collected into small heaps in order to facilitate drying; when dry, the seed can be readily separated by means of an ordinary threshing machine.

Climate.—With regard to Climate, the soy bean requires about the same temperature as maize. The plant is very resistant in drought, can endure slight frosts, and is capable of withstanding excess of moisture.

Yield.—Under ordinary circumstances, a yield of 25 to 40 bushels per acre is obtained, under specially favourable circumstances the crop may be considerably larger.

Utilization of the Seeds.—Glycine is not only of value to cultivators for the sake of its seeds, but it can also be grown for green forage, for ensilage, for hay or as a pasture plant. Reference

has already been made to the special value the plant possesses due to its ability to restore impoverished soil by affording it a supply of nitrogen. An account of the utilization of the Soy bean plant for these various purposes is given in "The Soy Bean as a Forage Crop," (Farmer's Bulletin, No. 58 United States Department of Agriculture (1899)). It has been found that the earlier varieties are best for seed crops and the later varieties for hay, forage and ensilage.

The oil possesses an agreeable taste and odour, and is largely used by the Chinese for edible purposes. It belongs to the class of semi-drying oils, that is to say, it has properties intermediate between those of the drying oils, such as linseed oil, and the non-drying oils, such as almond and olive oils. On exposure to the air, a thin skin is gradually formed on the surface. It resembles cotton-seed oil in many respects, but is of a more pronounced drying character, as is indicated by its higher iodine value.

The oil consists mainly of the glycerides of palmitic, oleic and linolic acids. The Physical and Chemical constants which have been recorded for soy bean oil are given below, the corresponding figures for cotton-seed oil being added for comparison.

		Soy bean oil.	Cotton seed oil.
Specific Gravity at 15° c.	...	0.9240—0.9270	0.9220—0.9260.
Saponification value	...	190.6—192.9	191.0—196.5
Iodine value	...	121.3—124.0	101—116
Hehner value	...	75.5—	95.9—96.2

Market Prices.—The oil is chiefly used in Europe for the manufacture of soap, and is very well suited for this purpose. It is quoted in the London Market at £21 5s. per ton (September 1909) with crude cotton-seed oil at £23 5s. per ton.

The oil cake left after the expression of the oil is hard and heavy, and resembles linseed cake, but is lighter in colour and has a characteristic taste recalling that of peas. The nutritive value of this product is approximately equal to that of decorticated cotton-seed cake. The average composition is as follows:—

1. Albuminoids	41 per cent.	4. Moisture	12 per cent.
2. Oil	6 do	5. Fibre	5 do
3. Carbohydrates	30 do	6. Mineral Constituents	6 do

Feeding Experiments.—Feeding trials with this cake in comparison with decorticated cotton cake have been carried out at the Cumberland and Westmorland Farm School at Norton Rigg and also at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. At the former institution it was found that cows fed with soy bean cake gave rather more milk than when fed with cotton cake; but the difference was so small that it may be considered that the two cakes are equal in this respect. The proportion of fat in the milk was the same in each case. During the trial the cows gained in weight, the soy bean cake causing a slightly larger increase than the cotton cake. The soy bean cake used in these experiments contained 6.0 per cent. of oil and 44.4 per cent. of albuminoids, whilst the cotton cake contained 13.1 per cent. of albuminoids.

The experiment at Cirencester showed that the yield of milk was but little affected by the kind of cake used. The percentage of fat

in the milk was slightly higher with the soy bean cake than with the cotton cake. The butter produced from the milk of the cows fed with soy bean cake was quickly obtained on churning, but was softer, and of a paler colour, and somewhat inferior flavour to that from the milk produced by the cows fed with cotton cake. The soy bean cake used in these tests contained 6 per cent. of oil and 40 per cent. of albuminoids and cost £6-10s. per ton, whilst the decorticated cotton cake contained 8 per cent. of oil and 34 per cent. of albuminoids and cost £7-10s. per ton.

In the experiments at Cirencester no difference was observed in the effect of the two cakes on the cows with regard to the laxative or constipative action. It may be mentioned, however, that certain cases have recently been brought to the notice of the Imperial Institute in which it is stated that the soy bean cake when fed to cows produced a scouring or laxative effect. It seems not unlikely, however, that these symptoms may have been caused by the use of an ill proportioned diet. Owing to its excessive richness in albuminoids, soy bean cake should be used with the same precautions as are observed in the case of decorticated cotton cake, which is said to be unsuited to calves and lambs, and when used for adult stock should be mixed with about an equal weight of some cereal product, such as maize, barley meal, wheat meal, or American flour.

SOY BEAN TRADE.

The first large cargo of soy beans consigned to the United Kingdom arrived in Hull on the 2nd of March 1909 and amounted to 5,200 tons. It is stated that before June contracts had been made for the delivery of no less than 200,000 tons. The beans are said to arrive at their destination in perfect condition, in spite of the distance they have to be carried. They are classified into three grades: No. 1 Shipped at Dalny; No. 2 shipped at Vladivostok; and No. 3 shipped at Hankow. The value of grade No. 1 is about £6-8s. per ton gross, c.i.f. European port direct, whilst the values of No. 2 and 3 are equal and about £6-6s. per ton gross, these prices being, of course, subject to the fluctuation of the market.

The great part, if not the whole, of the soy beans imported into *Europe* is purchased by the proprietors of oil-mills, who crush the product and obtain a quantity of oil, amounting to about 10 per cent. by weight of the seed, and a residual oil-cake which has proved to be a valuable cattle food.

Besides the direct, immediate, money-value of the produce, the great advantage of soy cultivation is, of course, the enrichment of the soil. It is an excellent green-manure crop and is valuable as a short-rotation with cereals.

At the conclusion of the paper Mr. Anstead said: It appears to me to be rather an interesting paper; and any one who wants more information about soy beans can get plenty of it from the U. P. A. office. We have dozens of references, especially in American publications.

Experiment Plots.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon Mr. Murphy to read the report of the Committee appointed to draw up a scheme for experimental plot manuring.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. MURPHY, on behalf of the Committee, presented the following report :—

Your Committee, appointed to consider the establishment by District Associations of Experiment Plots as suggested in the Scientific Officer's Annual Report, have the honour to report as follows :—

The chief aims of the plan are :—

- (a) In the absence of a Botanic Station, to give the Scientific Officer places in each district where he can rely upon experiments he may suggest, or wish to try, being carried out in accordance with his wishes, and upon the continuity of such experiments in his absence. A central Botanic Station is an impossibility on account of the widely differing crops, interests, climate, and soils, existing in South India.
- (b) To obtain reliable results from such experiments which will be comparable one with another, which is impossible when the experiments are conducted at a number of different places in a more or less haphazard way, as in the past.
- (c) To ensure the results of such experiments becoming public property for the good of the whole planting community.
- (d) To encourage and keep alive among the planters themselves an interest in the Scientific side of Agriculture, especially as applying to their own districts, and to give them a common interest in the field work of the Scientific Officer ; and incidentally to strengthen the District Associations.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations :—

1. Each District Association to arrange for definite areas in the district, as typical of the general conditions as to soil, climate, rainfall, etc., as possible, on which simple experiments can be carried out. It is hoped that free offers of suitable land will be made by planters interested.

2. Each District Association to elect a Committee of working planters who will consult with the Scientific Officer about experiments to be carried out, and the method of their conduction.

3. This Committee to undertake to see that these experiments are carried out exactly as arranged, and the results recorded, in accordance with a pre-arranged plan, over as long a period as may be necessary. This will ensure the continuity of such experiments on a definite system, which is essential if reliable results are to be obtained from them, and will remove the difficulty, which has existed in the past, that a Manager may go Home before a series of

experiments are finished and abandon them. In this event the Committee would take steps to see that the experiments were still carried out and the plan of them unaltered. Any one on whose estate such experiments were being conducted would give the Committee notice when he was leaving, and consult with them as to the arrangements to be made. In the same way any members of the Committee who might be leaving would give notice to that effect to the District Association and could be temporarily replaced by a substitute.

4. That the local Committees make the necessary arrangements for meeting any expenses in connection with such experiment plots. When the experiments are in danger of being abandoned for want of labour at a time when labour is short, the Committee will be expected to arrange for labour to be lent by different estates, each contributing a few coolies for instance.

5. It is proposed to conduct simple experiments, not elaborate ones, if possible in duplicate, on different estates, such, for example, as :—

- (a.) The testing of the benefit of green dressings as compared with clean weeding.
- (b.) Testing different kinds of green dressings.
- (c.) Testing sprayers, and methods of control for pests, such, for instance, as Black Rot.
- (d.) Simple tests of fertilisers such as Nitrolim.
- (e.) Tests to discover the best time to apply manures, and the best quantities to apply.
- (f.) The effect of nitrate of soda on latex yield.
- (g.) Methods of tapping and coagulation.
- (h.) Hybridisation of Coffee and Manihots, etc.

The CHAIRMAN :—Gentlemen,—I feel we are very much obliged to the Committee for having drawn up the scheme. I should like to hear if there is any comment or discussion forthcoming in the matter. I take it that you approve of the scheme that has been drawn up by your Committee. I would ask delegates to push the matter with their Associations when they return to the districts. I think the scheme is a very good one, and deserves support ; and personally I shall be very glad to take up the matter in my own district and Mundakayam as well.

The report was adopted ; and, on the motion of Mr. ABBOTT, seconded by Mr. MARTIN, a vote of thanks was passed to the Committee.

MR. PITTOCK :—Gentlemen,—Before we pass on from this subject we should have a discussion on those points drawn up by the Committee, so that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to any of them. It would be a thousand pities if any of the delegates should go back to the district without thoroughly understanding what we recommend. If any question were to be put to our Scientific Officer I know that he would only be too ready to reply. I

think there is an idea in some quarters that we want a considerable acreage for the experimental plots. I do not think it is quite correct. I should like Mr. Anstead to explain.

MR. ANSTEAD said that the scheme drawn up by the Committee covered all the requirements. The size of the experimental plots would depend upon what each District Association decided to do. His own idea was that half an acre might be set apart for the experiment being tried; but he would leave the matter to the District Associations on the understanding that it was not to be big experimental farms. He would be very glad to explain in correspondence if anything cropped up during the discussions of the District Associations.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. MURPHY said that he had no doubt plots of land would be available for experiments. The Chairman had been kind enough to give three plots. He (Mr. Murphy) would certainly give two or three plots.

MR. MEAD said that with regard to experimental plots for tea, he did not think that there would be much use in smaller plots than one acre. To see the effect of the manuring they would have to keep a record of the yields obtained from the experimental plot, and he did not think they could get very fair results from less than an acre.

The CHAIRMAN: As regards rubber, personally what I want to get at is about manuring. I should like to ask Mr. Anstead to give us an idea of which manures he would recommend putting in, giving us one or two alternatives.

MR. ANSTEAD: I will arrange to have that ready when I come to your district.

MR. PITTOCK: Don't you think it will be desirable to ask delegates what plots will be available in their respective districts?

The CHAIRMAN: So far, we have plots offered in Mundakayam.

MR. GUDGEON: Cochin will undoubtedly have some plots.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON: I have already offered my coffee hybrids.

MR. PITTOCK: South Mysore will offer plots.

MR. BARBER: No doubt it can be arranged for in the Nilgiris.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen,—I hope when you return to your districts you will push this matter and have something ready for Mr. Anstead when he comes round.

MR. DANVERS: It has just occurred to me to ask Mr. Anstead whether he does not think it advisable to add a word of warning and advice to that programme drawn up by the Committee, more especially as regards coffee planters, asking them to take great care to see that the experimental plots are composed entirely of healthy coffee, in view of rot, etc.; otherwise, it is just possible that the value of our coffee experiments may be entirely nullified.

MR. ANSTEAD : It depends on the experiment. I quite see your point. I will add a sort of introduction by way of words of advice and warning.

MR. DANVERS : I am not merely speaking as regards manuring.

MR. ANSTEAD : I will put down what I have to say in the *Chronicle*.

MR. MURPHY said that some of these experiments had already been tried in Ceylon, and asked if they could not be made use of.

MR. ANSTEAD pointed out that it did not necessarily follow that what was right in Ceylon was right here ; but they could take Ceylon as the starting point of their experiments and test them.

The CHAIRMAN : Has any other gentleman anything to say on the subject before we leave it ?

MR. TIPPING : May I suggest that Secretaries of District Associations write in to Mr. Anstead saying which particular subjects they wish to take up and asking his advice as to how they should start the work ? Then we shall know what we are about. For instance, our requirements may be quite different from those of North and South Mysore and we might start two or three experimental plots ; and as soon as we get an idea as to what is important for us, we may ask Mr. Anstead for his advice as to how to commence.

MR. MURPHY : Mr. Anstead will be going round the districts.

The CHAIRMAN : I think it will be quite sufficient if the meeting gives its approval to Mr. Tipping's suggestion.

This was done.

The Proposed Coffee Cess.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tipping, are you prepared to go on with the Coffee Cess ?

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. TIPPING : Mr. Pittock and I have come to an agreement as to the exact wording of the resolution which we wish to put before the meeting. As I have already said what I wish to say yesterday in support of the resolution, I do not think it necessary to read the whole thing through again, unless any one wants me to read it. The resolution before the meeting is :—

“ That in view of the letter dated the 16th December, 1909, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, which reads as follows :—‘ In continuation of Mr. Wynch’s letter No. 2880, dated 20th October, 1909, informing you that your letter of the 5th idem containing the representations of the Association on the subject of the levy of a cess on coffee exported from this country has been forwarded to the Government of India, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to furnish further evidence

that the Association's proposals in favour of a cess on coffee command the approval and support of the bulk of the coffee planters of Southern India whose produce would be affected by it. The Association may, perhaps, be unable to supply complete statistics of the coffee-producing area under cultivation, but some approximate figures proving that the demand for a coffee cess has the support of a very decided majority of coffee planters, whether members of the United Planters' Association of Southern India or not, are necessary before His Excellency in Council could give the proposal his support: 'Secretaries of District Associations be requested to send in at an early date the Statistics called for by Government to the Secretary, who is requested to submit these figures to Government with a reiteration of our reasons for asking for this cess, and that the Planting Member of Council be asked to press this subject on the attention of the Government with a view to the cess being imposed at an early date.'

[IN OPEN MEETING].

MR. PITTOCK, in seconding the Resolution, said :—

GENTLEMEN : I want to assure you that this to us, coffee planters, is a most serious matter ; so much so that we consider that very few matters come up before the U.P.A., which are of such vital importance to coffee planters. We had hoped that at this Meeting there would be sufficient information ready that we could take the subject straight up to Government again and instruct our Planting Member to press the matter upon the attention of the Government. This we now see has been impossible ; but we are very strong upon the point that it is incumbent upon District Associations to furnish the necessary information at the earliest possible date, so as to enable the matter to go through at once and to strengthen the hands of our Planting Member in approaching Government again to get this very important matter put through as soon as possible. With regard to the question of opposition, I maintain that there is no serious opposition to the cess. Of course, you are aware that the figures have not all come in, but I have private information that the opposition to the cess is not serious in any district. As far as the district I represent is concerned, there is no opposition I am aware of. There is not 2 per cent. of men, Native or European, that are against the cess. The South Mysore Association unanimously voted for the cess in the first instance. A Meeting was held of the South Mysore Native Planters' Association, and delegates from our Association attended. We brought the matter before the Native Planters Association, and we have got them to pass a resolution before a large Meeting, which was a thoroughly well advertised one, a very strong Resolution which I have got our Secretary to send up to Government, in favour of the cess. I hear that our brethren in North Mysore have trouble with the Indian planters opposing the cess. I maintain that the opponents of the cess in North Mysore do not

represent a sufficiently large acreage to constitute a serious opposition. I understand that in Coorg—I am open to correction, Mr. Tipping—that you have no opposition.

MR. TIPPING : We have heard of none.

MR. PITTOCK : You have taken steps to ascertain ?

MR. TIPPING : Yes.

MR. PITTOCK : It is my opinion, Sir, that there is no serious opposition to the cess. I do not think that there will be any difficulty in the Secretaries of the District Planting Associations giving their figures at an early date. We should place our wish on record that they will endeavour to do so.

MR. DANVERS said : At a Meeting on this subject, it was resolved by my Association, "that the Honorary Secretary do write to the Honorary Secretary, North Mysore Native Association, and enquire as to what steps, if any, have been taken to gauge the opinion of the Native planters in the matter of the proposal, and to request him to kindly do his best to impress upon the members of his Association and others the utility of the proposed cess, also that postcards be circulated with a view to ascertaining the present opinion of members of this Association and others at once." With regard to the members of my Association, out of a total of 41, 39 were in favour of the cess, and 2 against. One of the dissentients, I know, bases his objection on the smallness and inadequacy of the amount, and thinks that one per cent. would be more likely to result in something satisfactory. The reasons of the other I do not know. As regards the North Mysore Native Association, their Honorary Secretary wrote as follows :—"With reference to your letter I am advised by the members of my Association to write to you that the subject of the coffee cess will again be taken up this year at the Annual General Meeting, which comes off shortly, and I will let you know the result. The members of my Association and the non-members of the planting community are for the present against the coffee cess." Our Honorary Secretary also applied to the Deputy Commissioner for a list of the names of native planters owning 50 acres or over, but had not been favoured with a reply up to the time of my leaving. He has also drawn up a letter giving the decision of the Government of India, and adding some very cogent remarks of our late President, Mr. Browne, which ought at least to make the recipient think. Since the above was written I have heard from the Secretary of the North Mysore Planters' Association, and he informs me that of ten European non-members of the Association whom he addressed on the subject, only one has voted against the cess. So the Europeans in our district are practically unanimous in favour of it. The Honorary Secretary of the North Mysore Native Association has also written to say that "a unanimous Resolution has been passed against the cess at the General Meeting held on the 28th July, the chief reason being that almost all their produce was turned out

into native coffee, which found ready and better prices at the place of production itself." This looks very much as if the members of the North Mysore Native Association believe that all their produce is consumed in India itself, if not at their very doors, and that the general consumption of the world has no effect on their prices—a belief difficult to understand.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. PITTOCK: I should like to ask Mr. Hamilton if he can tell me how far the subject has gone as far as he is concerned. I understand that he has had some informal interviews with certain officials of the Madras Government and has been pushing this matter in an un-official manner. Is that so? I should like to ask Mr. Hamilton if he can tell us in committee how far he has gone in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. HAMILTON said that, as he had told them at first, he had absolutely no private communications to make to them. He might say that he had been told nothing which they could go upon. He had told them, as briefly as he could, what had happened. He had been in Madras on a little holiday in November and December, and he took the opportunity of calling on the different officials, members of Council and Secretaries to Government, and asking them for a little help in this direction. As their way was, they put him a good many searching questions. He was glad to say that, as it happened that he had the subject fairly well at his fingers' ends, he was able to give them more or less satisfactory answers. In fact, one gentleman had gone as far as to say that he had not thought much of the resolution as it came up and that he had not been able to grasp that there was any sort of case. But after his answer to that gentleman's questions, that gentleman thought that there was absolutely no objection to it, as long as a big majority of planters were in favour of it. That was the sort of tone which had gone through most of the informal interviews he had had. No one gave him any official information that he could communicate to them; no one gave him any message. When the late Mr. Harvey had come to Madras, unfortunately he (Mr. Hamilton) had been absent in Ceylon. However, he got two or three friends who were members of the Indian Tea Cess Committee to see Mr. Harvey, and he had taken practically the same view. He had told them that if the thing came back he would try and see it in a favourable light; but there had been no official promise. That seemed to be the general opinion. They had a definite demand from the Madras Government for figures, which looked as though they were prepared to act upon them. That was official. It was very unfortunate for them that Mr. Harvey had died on his way Home. They were going to get a new man, and they might have to begin new work. As far as they had gone it seemed to him, from Mr. Pittock's remarks, that they had a good case, that they would get the matter re-opened, any how (cheers).

MR. ABBOTT said that though Wynaad did not produce much coffee now-a-days they were unanimously in favour of the coffee

cess. They had ascertained that there was practically no opposition to it; at any rate, not any that he had heard of. If Mr. Pittock wanted any more information from Wynaad he would be very glad to send it again. He had answered all questions sent by Mr. Ormerod.

The SECRETARY:—What about non-members of your Association? What about Mr. Fakir Mahomed, for instance?

The Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON said that he had written to that gentleman and received an answer from his son that Mr. Fakir Mahomed was not opposed to it, and that he had been away and would write on his return.

MR. DEANE promised to get him to send an answer direct to Mr. Hamilton.

The CHAIRMAN: Have no other coffee delegates anything to say in the matter, as to what is being done by their Associations?

MR. PITTOCK: We do not want to appear as if we have done nothing since that letter was received a good many months ago. It would look much better if every delegate would say how far he has got, so that it may be put on record. Have you sent in your figures, Mr. Dickins?

MR. DICKINS: We have collected all the figures and sent them on. We were quite under the impression that the further progress now made had been made.

MR. BROCK said that he had been Honorary Secretary last January, he had been collecting figures and got them from all except one. He had subsequently resigned his secretaryship, and he did not know if those figures had been forwarded. There was not a single one in opposition, and the one person he had not received an answer from, was the owner of a very small holding. Otherwise the answers received were unanimously in favour of the cess.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

Weights and Measures.

MR. TIPPING'S resolution was then put in open meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: There are two items under tea, markets and cess. These have already been referred to under the heading of green tea. I do not think there is any one else prepared to say anything further on the matter. We now take up the matter of Weights and Measures.

Gentlemen, we have some copies of an article on "Weights and Measures" by Mr. F. J. Richards, Collector of the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, which he has kindly sent here, but which he wishes returned.

MR. BARBER: I have got nothing to say on the subject. I feel sure that Mr. Martin will tell us all about it. I wish simply to propose this resolution:—"That this Association do adopt

the proposals of Mr. Richards, Collector of Bangalore, with regard to the standardisation of weights and measures and do press for their general adoption throughout the country, in spite of all opposition, past and to come."

MR. ABBOTT seconded the motion.

MR. LAKE: I take it that Mr. Richards' proposition only applies to the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

MR. BARBER: No. Mr. Richardson's proposal is for the whole country. We are pressing for its general adoption throughout the country.

MR. LAKE: Mr. Richards' proposal applies only to the Civil and Military Station. I do not think it applies even to the City. It is only for the Cantonment.

MR. BARBER: He also refers to the maund weights all through the Presidency. He refers to Coorg and some of the coffee districts of Mysore. The only question that remains is to legalise it.

MR. DANVERS: May I read a letter addressed to our Association by Mr. Richards? It runs as follows:—

"The question of standardising weights is being taken up by the Municipal Commission of the Civil and Military Station. The proposal before them is that, in view of its wide recognition and its vogue within the Station, the English pound avoirdupois should be taken as the standard in preference to any local system. The contention is that because the diverse weights throughout India are habitually expressed in terms of the English pound, the latter is *de facto* the ultimate standard throughout India, and the change proposed is not a change of standard, but a simplification of terminology. As the proposal is made with a view to facilitating dealings between Bangalore and the outside world, it is desirable that we should obtain outside opinion on the proposal, and I should be glad if you would briefly favour me with your views. I enclose a Statement of Objects and Reasons."

I think we might favour Mr. Richards with our views and recommend the extension of his proposal to the whole of India.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Danvers, I think Mr. Barber's resolution covers what you propose.

MR. DANVERS: These gentlemen criticise him.

MR. MARTIN: I see, Mr. Chairman, that in the year 1905 this question of Weights and Measures was gone into rather fully. There is an appendix given in the Book of Proceedings for that year, giving very full information about weights and measures of the country then in use, which was collected by myself from Government sources. The first column gives districts and stations, the second column give the name of the measure, the third how used locally, the fourth assumed normal contents in rice, fifth and sixth columns, the number of tolas, weight of rice, next is water in ounces

contained in each measure, and so forth. There is plenty of information before us on the subject of Weights and Measures. The proposition moved in that year by myself, seconded by Mr. Holder, was "that this Association desires to bring before the Government of India the information now before the meeting and requests that something be done to level up the weights and measures. The existing variations in weights and measures cause the greatest trouble, inconvenience and loss to planters and their coolies." I understand that we want now to go a step further than this and to ask Government to bind themselves down to one particular standard. I do not know that it is quite wise to do so, and I do not know if we are the proper people to say what will suit the whole of India. But that some standard is necessary is almost universally acknowledged. I have had myself a secret hankering after the railway maund; for two reasons: one is that the railway has introduced it into all parts of India where there is a railway, so that this is a weight which is already familiar to most people in India. Furthermore, it is sub-divided into seers and tolas, a tola being a rupee weight. It strikes me that that might be more convenient for the whole country than if we asked for the introduction of a pound weight or some exotic measure. I would not like to see this Association bind itself down to any particular standard when we are not in a position to say that it will really suit the whole country. I would rather see this Association reaffirm the previous resolutions which we have passed in former years. It has been suggested to me that the tola is a very well known weight, owing to its adoption by the Postal Department.

[IN COMMITTEE]

MR. MARTIN : Mr. Ormerod, what is the last resolution that we proposed ? This was the proposal of 1905. In 1906 I remember we reaffirmed it. There was one year since then when I was not down here. I am not certain what it was.

MR. PITTOCK : There is a resolution in 1908.

MR. MARTIN : With reference to Weights, I think we could reaffirm a part of what we previously adopted as our resolution in this meeting. I see that from 1905 to 1908 the question has been before the meeting in this form, *viz.*, "that this Association desires to bring before the Government of India the information now before the meeting and requests that something be done to level up weights and measures. The existing variations in the weights and measures cause the greatest trouble, inconvenience and loss to planters and their coolies." In 1908, it was proposed by Mr. Waddington and seconded by your goodself, Mr. Chairman, "that this Association call the attention of the Government of Madras to the great variation in the capacity of the measures in use and that the 'Madras measure' be made the only measure allowed for obtaining the supplies needed for all departments in the Presidency under their control, and that its introduction for use by the general public be more vigorously pushed, this Association promising its support and asking that the Government of Madras

use its influence with the neighbouring states of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin to induce them to join in bringing into general use the same measure throughout Southern India." That was passed in 1908. It only deals with Measures and not with Weights.

MR. PITTOCK : There is later information available.

MR. MARTIN : At the 1909 meeting our Secretary told us in his Annual Report that "on the resolution passed last year being communicated to the Board of Revenue, information was received that the Madras type measure and its sub-multiples or the Madras type seer and its sub-multiples had been introduced into all the districts of the Madras Presidency, except Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari, Guntur and Malabar. Towards the close of last month the further information was obtained that the Madras type seer and its multiples and sub-multiples have now been introduced into all the stations of the Guntur district, but departmental sale of type seers is being carried on as an experimental measure in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavari, and of type measures in Malabar. The Board of Revenue believes that the standard measures will replace all others shortly in each of the districts referred to above." That is very satisfactory, but it only deals with Measures. But as we have received a practical answer to the resolution of our Association on the question of Measures, I would propose that we now confine ourselves entirely to the question of Weights.

MR. BARBER : Can the answer which we have received be considered practical? Has any one seen the results?

MR. MARTIN : I have, in the Southern districts.

MR. PITTOCK : I should like to ask Mr. Martin what is meant by "introduced." Is it compulsory that they should sell by that measure?

MR. MARTIN : It is the standard used by Government in quoting prices, and when the Government buys or sells, that measure is alone used.

MR. PITTOCK : That will not do for us.

MR. MARTIN : The Government is gradually familiarising the country with that measure.

MR. BROCK : Those are the measures now being used in large shandies such as Pollachi. In out of the way places they use the old measures. In the big shandies in Coimbatore district the Madras type measure is now being used.

MR. MARTIN moved the following amendment :—

"That this Association, realising that the Madras Government have done all that is reasonable for the present on the subject of standardization of Measures, now urge upon the Government of India the necessity for the standardization of Weights throughout the country."

MR. TIPPING seconded the amendment, which was put to the meeting in committee and carried.

[IN OPEN MEETING.]

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution (originally moved as an amendment) in open meeting, and declared it carried.

Proposed Pest Act.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, before we go on to the next subject Mr. Ormerod has just brought a point to my notice which seems to have been passed over while we were discussing Cultivation: Diseases and Pests. Last year it was proposed "that, considering the Scientific Officer's remarks, District Associations be asked to put immediately the matter of a Pest Act before their members."

I should be glad to hear from delegates what has been done in the matter.

MR. BARBER: It was brought up before my Association, and they thought, owing to several reasons, that a Pest Act would be impracticable. Our estates are often very far apart, and we are surrounded by Government land. It is pretty certain that the Forest Department will not take any steps to protect us whatever we might do on our boundaries to protect ourselves, and we hold that it is considered impracticable because of that.

MR. DANVERS: I am speaking entirely from memory, but I think that when our Association discussed the subject of a Pest Act it was decided that unless in that Act the examination and carrying out of destructive measures in private property could be enforced, and also unless Government were prepared to do the same thing in their own jungles and forest reserves, a Pest Act would be useless. I may add that Mr. Couchman informed me that it was absolutely hopeless to expect Government to do any such thing.

The CHAIRMAN: Has any other district anything to report in this matter?

[IN COMMITTEE.]

MR. MURPHY said that a Pest Act was very necessary in Travancore. In the case of rubber, with all the rubber planted by natives, diseases spread to their estates. Natives would not take any trouble about it, and diseases would spread. He asked if the U. P. A. could help them in any way. If they had to approach the Travancore Government, it must be done through the central body.

The CHAIRMAN: I quite agree with what Mr. Murphy has said. It may be difficult to get native owners to do anything. I think we have a very good illustration in our own district, where we ourselves have not done anything. I am speaking of Peermade. I think what Mr. Barber and Mr. Danvers said, seems to be the general opinion, *viz.*, that a Pest Act is impracticable.

MR. MURPHY: There is a Pest Act in Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN: Ceylon is not Southern India.

MR. MURPHY: Southern India is better than Ceylon (cheers and laughter).

MR. ANSTEAD : If I have your permission to speak on the subject, I should like to speak strictly in committee. What I have to say I really ought not to say if it is to be reported even in the book of proceedings.

The meeting agreed that Mr. Anstead's remarks were not to be reported.

Mr. Anstead then made a statement.

MR. PITTOCK : We are very keen on a Pest Act in South Mysore. We deprecate Mr. Danvers throwing cold water on the scheme.

MR. DANVERS : I was merely explaining why it is difficult to get a Pest Act.

MR. DICKINS : Our Association will be very glad to see a Pest Act introduced. The matter was talked over with the Forest Officer privately, and he said it was impossible.

MR. DANVERS : I am perfectly willing to support any motion for the adoption of a Pest Act.

MR. PARSONS : May I ask Mr. Hamilton if he has any information on the subject ?

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : I have absolutely no information to give.

MR. DANVERS : Then I beg to move :

"That this Association is strongly in favour of the introduction of a Pest Act into Southern India, and that the Planting Member be asked to interview heads of Government Departments before whom the consideration of a Pest Act would come, and to point out to them the benefit that would accrue to *all* cultivation from the adoption of such a measure."

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : I will only say that that practically postpones action till December.

MR. DANVERS : That is a very small part of the thousand years that Mr. Anstead said would be necessary.

MR. ABBOTT said that everybody was perfectly unanimous about the necessity for a Pest Act. He wished to know if compensation would be paid if a man's estate had to be destroyed under the Act.

MR. ANSTEAD said that he had had a good deal of experience in working a Pest Act, and he would only give them one example to show them how it worked. Let them take the case of a rubber estate. Say that there was a tree which stood there dead and that the Agricultural Department said that it had died of a disease and that it should be cut down and burnt. If the owner of the estate declined to do it, the Government, under the Pest Act, would say that it would have that tree cut down for him, if he would not cut it down. Where did compensation come in there ? It was a dead tree, and any compensation would be but a few rupees. Supposing again there were certain trees which had to be sprayed or

treated in a certain way, and the owner of the estate said he would not do it as he had no money: The Government would help him by lending him money. In the West Indies there were agricultural loans given for such purposes.

MR. ABBOTT instanced the case of pepper, and asked if a man would be paid compensation, whose estate was denuded of the vines at the instance and on the advice of the Scientific Officer?

MR. DANVERS: It seems to me that the Government will consider all such points. When they take land for railway they give compensation. If they destroy your vines for the general benefit, they will consider themselves bound to give you compensation.

MR. GUDGEON seconded Mr. Danvers' proposition, which was put and carried in Committee.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN: I will now put the resolution in open meeting. The resolution was carried unanimously.

An Imperial Preferential Tariff.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the next item on the agenda paper comes under No. 12, Duties.

MR. BARBER: Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in bringing a resolution before you because I feel sure that at any rate for once I shall be able to propose something that will meet with unanimous support. After severe collaboration with Mr. Brock I have drawn up this Resolution. It runs as follows:—

"That this Association do affirm its complete adherence to the following creed with regard to Imperial Preferential Tariff."

- (a) We believe that the British-grown *Coffee* will be benefited by a preference in duty, and that it is sufficient in quantity for the consumption of the Empire.
- (b) We believe that a preference in duty in favour of British-grown *Tea* will have the effect of displacing inferior teas; and, by giving the citizens of the Empire a wholesomer and better beverage, the moral and physical condition of the poorer classes will be improved.
- (c) We believe that a preferential treatment for *Rubber* will, in the near future, prove of inestimable value to an industry in which millions of British Capital have been and are being invested.
- (d) We believe that a preferential tariff for *Cinchona Bark* and *Quinine* is a matter of Imperial importance, and should receive the attention of every far-seeing British Statesman.
- (e) We believe that preference with *Cocoa* would remove the possibility of such a pitiful scandal as the one with which the names of reputable British firms were recently connected.

- (f) We believe that attention has not been sufficiently called to the danger to Great Britain and the Empire incurred by relying to such a very great extent on the supply of cotton from the United States of America, and that a preferential treatment for British-grown *Cotton*, by encouraging adequate production within the Empire, is the only way to safeguard the interests of Lancashire for all time.
- (a) We believe that British-grown *Wheat* is necessary in sufficient quantities to meet the consumption of the Empire, and so save every part of it from the possibility of starvation in time of war, and that the only means to attain this ideal result is by giving British-grown wheat a preference.
- (h) We believe that a complete Imperial Preference Tariff is essential to the maintenance of the power and prosperity of the British Empire, and that every effort ought to be made to render the Empire Self-supporting.
- (i) We believe that the sentiment that will be engendered by a Preferential Tariff throughout the Empire would prove to be an Imperial Asset and a bond of union of even greater value than the benefits that would arise from its Commercial aspect :

“ And that this Association do communicate these views to all other Associations, public and private bodies, Members of Parliament and Legislative Councilors throughout the Empire, asking for their opinions, and for their active co-operation in furthering the cause of Imperial Tariff Reform.”

MR. BROCK, in seconding the Resolution, said :—Gentlemen, Mr. Barber has asked me to make a few remarks in support of his Resolution. As you know, some ten years ago we started this question by passing a Resolution which was forwarded to Trades Associations and various Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire, asking for their opinion and urging them to take an interest in Imperial Preference. Since that date we have continually reaffirmed our belief in the necessity for Imperial Preference, but there has been during the last ten years very little further discussion about it amongst ourselves. When this idea was first started by this Association, Coffee was the predominating product represented here, and it was with reference to coffee mostly that we urged Imperial Preference. Since then Tea has come into cultivation to a very much greater extent, and now we have Rubber as one of the chief products that this Association represents. We consider that the time has come when we should encourage a little further discussion on this point. As regards all the various products the Resolution which Mr. Barber has read to you requires very little comment. Coffee we have dealt with so often that I need say nothing more about it, and Mr. Hamilton, two years ago, spoke on this product specially. As regards Tea, a preferential duty on tea would bar common Chinas and Japans from the British market and, with a lessened duty on our own tea, people at Home would be able to procure at the cheaper price a far better tea than

they get now. As regards Rubber, cultivation in British possessions is increasing very rapidly, and I think it is quite acknowledged that the production from our plantation Rubber in a very short time will be sufficient for the Empire's needs. It would be a great thing for us to be able to produce all our own rubber, and so be absolutely independent of rubber grown under circumstances such as have arisen in the Congo Free State. With reference to Cotton, we all know that the present position of cotton mills in Lancashire is a very precarious one. At present they use practically nothing but American cotton, as they find that most of the Indian cotton they get is, though much cheaper in price, not suitable for all purposes. I am glad to learn that there is at least one variety of imported cotton, the cultivation of which is spreading very rapidly in India and is being taken up very largely by natives. This cotton is a most suitable one in every way and compares very favourably with that which is imported from America. There is every reason to believe that as this cotton becomes better known a far greater area will come under cotton in India, and that will be of incalculable value to our cotton industry at Home. As regards Wheat I need say nothing. Very often we have heard about the advisability of the Empire being self-supporting, and it has been so often spoken of at Home that I do not think that anybody who goes into the subject carefully will have any real fear of hardship arising from a lessened size of loaf because of reformed tariff.

MR. MURPHY said: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I must own up to belonging to what is, I believe, in this Association the unpopular party. I do not think that I am competent to give all the reasons for and against preferential duties, and, were I to do so, my Association very possibly would promptly give me "the order of the boot." So far as rubber is concerned, however, I cannot under present conditions see any necessity for a preferential tariff. Anything adding to the price of the article in the London market must have some effect on its consumption. We are not at present competing against wild rubber, and there is ample room in the markets of the world for all the rubber that can possibly for many years be produced. A preferential duty would—in my opinion, and I wish to add that I have no instructions from my Association—tend to decrease instead of increase its consumption. It is important, in view of the large increase there will be in crops during the next ten years, that rubber in all its forms should be put on the market as cheaply as possible, so that the man in the street may, without undue pressure on his purse, have it ready at hand—for all reasonable purposes.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. MEAD suggested that the discussion on the subject of preferential tariff should be severely restricted, as otherwise they would never get to the end of it.

MR. BARBER: May I ask if Mr. Murphy is going to oppose the resolution?

MR. MURPHY: I have no instructions from my Association.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you going to vote against the resolution on behalf of your Association?

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: But I think your Association has already committed itself to a preferential tariff.

MR. MURPHY: I have no authority to commit my Association. If it has already committed itself the new members in it are not bound by that.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you got any authority to vote against it?

MR. MURPHY: I have no authority to vote in favour of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Last year your Association voted for it.

MR. MURPHY: I will remain neutral.

MR. DANVERS: It seems to me that this Association is irrevocably committed to Preference. Mr. Murphy's Association is undoubtedly in the same boat with us. This Association is committed to Preference for all time.

MR. MURPHY: I do not offer to withdraw anything I have said, but I will refrain from voting, as I have had no instructions from my Association.

The CHAIRMAN then put Mr. Barber's resolution, seconded by Mr. Brock, to the meeting in committee and declared it carried, *nem. con.*

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The resolution was put in open meeting and carried, *nem. con.*

The meeting then adjourned for luncheon.

International Rubber Exhibition, 1911.

When the delegates re-assembled after luncheon the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, we will take up the matter of the International Rubber Exhibition of 1911. Mr. Gudgeon, you have got something to say on the subject. Is it not so?

MR. GUDGEON: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I propose:

“That this Association do decide to support the Rubber Exhibition of 1911 to be held in London. That the Secretary be asked to arrange for space at the International Rubber Exhibition either by letter or by cable. That Mr. Richardson be requested to be our delegate; that a Committee be formed to undertake all the necessary arrangements in connection with the Exhibition; and that the Association be indemnified against loss by the delegates of those Associations largely interested in rubber.”

MR. KNIGHT seconded the motion.

MR. MURPHY said that there were some planters of his district who did not very much believe in these Exhibitions. He was not committing his Association one way or the other; but so far as he was concerned he was quite willing to guarantee the sum required

of his Association. He would like, however, Mr. Gudgeon or some others to give them some idea of the benefits that would result from the Exhibition. Personally, he was rather doubtful about the benefits.

MR. GUDGEON: Mr. Richardson gave us some idea of this the other day.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The CHAIRMAN: Have you any idea, Mr. Gudgeon, what the space we are likely to require should be?

MR. GUDGEON: A plot 32 feet by 22 feet at a cost of £147.

MR. MURPHY: I really do not know whether there are any adequate reasons that I can lay before my Association in supporting this Exhibition. I am not saying that I am voting against it. I ought to have something to lay before my Association to get them to support it. We have not got to press the sale of our rubber, and I cannot see what good will be gained by spending money on this. Mr. Mead wrote an excellent pamphlet, but I do not know whether it added a shilling to our profits. It might have enhanced the value of our shares, but we are not selling shares. That is not our business; our business is to grow and sell rubber.

MR. BARBER: If the share value is increased, the land value will be appreciated too, and even the proprietors will be interested in this.

MR. MEAD: It appears to me that the one thing which justifies our supporting this Exhibition is that there will be a certain amount of reference to South India as a rubber district. I think the more we demonstrate that Southern India is second to no other country in regard to rubber, the better will it be for the industry in South India.

MR. MURPHY: I take it that we shall get just as good prices as Ceylon planters do whether we sell rubber in London or Ceylon. I am not opposing Mr. Gudgeon.

MR. LEAHY: Does not Mr. Murphy ignore the machinery parts of the Exhibition. I think you have probably got to learn much of the latest inventions in the machinery line from the Exhibition.

The CHAIRMAN: If this Exhibition is going to be on a large scale and every other rubber country is going to take part in it and the Exhibition is going to include machinery, we will have a lot to learn about machinery in rubber. We do not know where we are in regard to this matter, and it would be a splendid opportunity for seeing the machinery at work. I understand they are going to send scrap rubber to be manufactured at the Exhibition.

MR. MURPHY: We could see the machinery without taking up space.

MR. MEAD: The Exhibition is like any other form of advertisement. It is extremely difficult to recognise what direct benefits do actually come in, but the more Travancore and Cochin are known in the rubber world, the more will their value be enhanced. It is for that reason that I am in favour of the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: If this resolution is carried, Mr. Ormerod might write Home and apply for the space, which, according to the calculation made, is going to cost about £150. Mr. Ormerod will apply by cable, and within the next three weeks we can raise the £150. If it falls through, we cannot do anything. We will have to take our chance. I think, in support of the thing, what Mr. Mead and Mr. Leahy said about the machinery, will be quite enough to go upon. Another point is that this Exhibition is being engineered by the rubber buyers at Home, who will naturally look forward to our rubber, which might lead to forward contracts. Do you think you will have any difficulty in raising this sum?

MR. GUDGEON: Mr. Chairman, will you kindly send a paper round?

MR. MURPHY: How do you propose to raise the amount; is it upon the acreage?

MR. GUDGEON: A Committee will have to be formed, who will have to decide it.

The CHAIRMAN: I put Mr. Gudgeon's resolution before the meeting in Committee.

The resolution was carried in Committee, after six of the delegates present had guaranteed to indemnify the U. P. A. S. L. to the extent of £30 each, if necessary.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN: I put the resolution in open meeting.

The resolution was declared carried, *nem. con.*

MR. GUDGEON: I propose:

That the following gentlemen form the Committee for the Rubber Exhibition:—Mr. Tipping, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Knight, and myself.

MR. BARBER seconded the motion, which was carried, *nem. con.*

[IN COMMITTEE.]

The CHAIRMAN: I think we want a little further discussion about this. We have got a guarantee of £180. Mr. Ormerod has to put down money when he writes for space; so that the money needs to come at once.

MR. TIPPING: It seems to me, as far as I can understand, that it is purely a private subscription. Why not let the Committee arrange with the Secretary for engaging the space? I do not think the matter has anything to do with the members in general; I think it might be arranged with the Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we leave this subject, I want to make it clear that this resolution will not be acted on until the money is in the hands of the Secretary. That we will arrange amongst ourselves this afternoon.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

Labour,**RECRUITING AND EMIGRATION.**

MR. MARTIN addressed the meeting on "Labour Recruiting and Emigration. He said :"

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It gratifies me to see influences at work among us, to make us realise that at the bottom of our labour troubles is the competition from foreign countries. For instance, in the *Daily Post* of the 1st instant I was glad to see the point brought forward, and a suggestion even made, that it would be advisable to have an active propaganda to counteract the wiles of the recruiter for countries oversea. It will interest you to hear the few figures I have collected about this question of emigration. The number of coolies who passed through the Tattaparai Depot—which is practically Tuticorin—for Ceylon during January 1910 was 2,272; in February 3,402. In March 5,129, in April 7,984, in May 12,024, in June 14,336; total 45,147. From the port of Tondi and other small coast ports I have not got exact figures, but I am not over the mark when I say that the number was between 6,000 and 7,600 during the same time.—Total, say 52,000 coolies. Many of these are old coolies returning to Ceylon; certainly those who find their way there without passing through Tattaparai are such, passing between that island and India, with their homes for the most part in S. Madura and E. Rannad Districts.

Most of the Tattaparai Depot coolies originate from Trichinopoly, Katpadi, Arkonam, both North and South Arcot, Malabar, Madras, Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore, and Bangalore. The greatest number of coolies who went to Ceylon in any one day from Tattaparai was 825.

The Bangalore coolies come from all parts of Mysore, some from British Districts adjoining Cuddapah, Anantapur, Bellary, and a few even from the Bombay Presidency.

Coolies were available at Bangalore—under our noses—on the 31st July at Rs.25 per head. This sum per head has actually been paid by Ceylon Kanganies to recruiters recently. The rate is likely to rise in a week or ten days, so anyone wanting coolies had better take them now. Any Ceylon Kangany will give Rs.20 per head for coolies put on the launch at Tuticorin from the surrounding country.

I have no accurate information as to how these payments appear in the books of Ceylon Estates; I am therefore open to correction when I say that I believe the sum is treated as a recoverable advance due to the Estate by the Kangany, and I suppose the Kangany in his turn treats it as recoverable from the cooly.

It is recoverable by the Estate, under the tundu system, by which Kanganies and coolies are passed on from one Estate to another, at so much per head. How the so-called advance is eventually to be recovered from the Kangany or the cooly, I do not know.

The number of Indian coolies who went to the Straits Settlements during the first half of this year was 32,617, as against 11,947 for the corresponding period of last year, an excess of 20,670. These extra coolies were available for us all, if we cared to pay the same price for them. They emigrated from Tanjore, Trichinopoly, N. and S. Arcot, and Northern Districts on the east of the Peninsula mostly.

The rate paid by individual European recruiters varies immensely; for instance, a Straits planter got together about 250 coolies, making Erode his headquarters from January to May—and the amount he paid local depôts and recruiters averaged Rs.7 per head. Another planter at the same time, from the Straits, gave no less than 150 rupees for two men and one woman, and was influenced in doing so by the fact that the woman of the party was loaded with jewels. Imagine his disgust on seeing the depôt-keeper, after pocketing the rupees, calmly proceed to unscrew the nose and ear ornaments off her face! That planter, quickly realising that Erode was no place for him, took himself elsewhere.

In the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, I believe that none of these recruiting expenses are charged to the Kanganies and coolies, so that the cooly starts on the estate free of all debt, and, if I am right in my information, this compares very favourably with the Ceylon system, by which apparently the cooly is liable to be saddled with the amount paid, not to him, but to the rascal who induced him to emigrate.

It will interest you to have some further light on the position in the Malay States.

The discontinuance of indentured labour does not materially affect them. Free labour on the older estates has taken years to build up, and it is the new Companies who find difficulty in getting labour—they put it down, hark you, not to scarcity of coolies, but to the difficulty in getting reliable recruiting Agents. Wages are tending to increase there. According to official figures, the number of coolies employed on plantations in the Federated Malay States and Johore at the end of 1908 was 78,000; on rubber exclusively the number is estimated at 70,000, but at that time a very small percentage of the 241,000 acres under rubber was being tapped. The proportion was 1 cooly to $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The acreage under rubber to-day is 300,000, the whole of which in 5 years will be tappable. So that in 1915 the number of coolies required will be 230,000 more than they have now got. A Chinese labour bureau has already been established, and we cannot but hope, with those who established it, that it will prove a brilliant success.

I have not got the figures for the Crown Colony of the Straits Settlements, for which I am glad, as they only make the position much worse for us, and we might be so much appalled as to faint under the weight of knowledge, whereas I want to rouse you to see the necessity of some prompt action, even if it is only one small step in what I think is the right direction. Neither have I given you the number of coolies which will be required in Ceylon when

all the rubber now planted is in bearing. There is an outcry among us if a few hundreds of coolies go from Mangalore to South Travancore, or if a few score Nilgiri coolies go to the Anaimalais; and the question of internal competition is forced into a prominent position when all the time, as I believe, it is foreign competition which is at the root of the evil. I do not know when our collective eyes will be opened to the fact that the danger is from beyond seas, and that local competition need not even exist, were it not for the pressure from the outside.

I hope that the fact that since the opening of the Ceylon Depot in Bangalore only seven months ago it has proved to be one of the two largest centres for the supply of new coolies to Ceylon may help to rouse us to a proper sense of the position. If I, or any of my brother planters, had opened such an Agency in Bangalore, we should have never heard the last of it, but because the competition comes from outside, no notice seems to have been taken of it. It almost appears as if everyone shared the sympathy for emigration which is undoubtedly shown by the Government and other great institutions in this country. Emigration I accept as a necessary fact, but the sympathy for it, and encouragement of it, I find difficult to swallow. We must admit that all cooly men and women are justly entitled to go wherever they think they can make the best living—but, being what they are, should no effort be made to protect them from accepting as true the promises made to them? We ourselves are to blame for taking no steps to teach them that they can make as good a living in India as out of it. We have taken no steps collectively to protect ourselves. The Government do not think it necessary that coolies should really understand what their pay or prospects are likely to be in the countries to which they propose to emigrate. When Straits Planters promise that if a cooly works six days a week he will get the seventh day's pay for nothing, no steps are taken to see the promise is kept; when the promise is broken, no protest is made on his behalf.

It is assumed that every cooly who goes to Ceylon will get regular work, but when it does not suit his or her employer to pluck their tea more than four days a week, they are kept idle for two or three days in the week: a distinct breach of an implied promise. The cooly ought to be informed of these things, and if the Government were as sympathetic to the needs of the Planters in South India as they appear to be to planters who want labour outside British India, they would not be unwilling to take some steps in this matter.

Here again I consider we ourselves have been to blame: we have never asked Government to take these steps, and we appear to have assumed that they would not listen to us. I see no ground for this assumption.

The Government of India have advanced the argument that it is in the interest of India that emigrants should return to India with their savings and make room for others in need of employment, which shows that Government wishes to find employment for

coolies outside India, when we can find employment ourselves for at least some of them. We know that when emigrants return with savings, they do not take to a labourer's life again, but become employers of labourers, either directly or indirectly, in some form or other. The Committee appointed to enquire into Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates have recently published their Report, but it is not yet available in South India; from what I have seen in the Home papers, however, I find that this Committee finds that the evidence goes to show that the majority of emigrants who return to India with savings are unsettled by the life they lead in the Colonies, and the Committee holds that the immigrants should settle in the Colonies where they have served.

Even the Railway authorities, it will be observed, listen with avidity to Ceylon's desire for a Railway connection with South India, over Adam's Bridge. What good this can do to India is a question; but to Ceylon it is obviously of the greatest benefit. The South Indian Railway appears to be more anxious to put through this scheme than to make many other feeder lines for the benefit of South India,—to sacrifice our interests to those of Ceylon.

The Presidency Bank also is willing to accommodate the Ceylon Emigration business, but is unwilling to give similar facilities to cooly recruiting business in South India. Small cheques are cashed as far as Erode for the Ceylon Labour Commissioner as a special case, by the Bank of Madras, but the Bank finds it impossible to extend the concession to Indian Planters. I think I have proved my point, that from Government downwards there is sympathy for our competitors, those connected with emigration.

In our own interests we should approach Government to do their whole duty in the matter, to see that emigrants, whether indentured or otherwise, should clearly understand the conditions they accept when they are about to emigrate. It would be too much to ask Government that intending emigrants should be informed that equally good conditions are offered in India itself, but we can undertake this task ourselves perhaps.

At last year's meeting in this room, three cures for our labour troubles were put forward—Act I of 1903, which was not designed to deal with emigration; Mr. Brock's complete Registration scheme, which I still consider too complex and too difficult to work; and the recommendations of your Committee who considered the question during the previous year. I am forced to fall back on this last for my proposal to you to-day. I cannot say it is a cure for all our ills, but it is a step in the right direction.

It is simplicity itself, and easily workable. Further reasons for the proposals, which I now only repeat, will be found in the body of the Report of your Committee submitted to you last year.

In conclusion Mr. Martin proposed the following Resolution:

“That this Association adopt the Report of the Committee put before it at the meeting last year, and request Government through the proper channels to pass an Act providing for—

- (1) The appointment of a sufficient number of Protectors of Emigrants overseas.
- (2) The attestation of all contracts and agreements.
- (3) The compulsory appearance of all coolies emigrating overseas before a Protector of Emigrants who will satisfy himself that the coolies understand the true conditions under which they have been asked to emigrate.
- (4) The registration of all Coolies, Maistries, Kanganies and Recruiters connected with emigration or emigrating.
- (5) The imposition of penalties for infringing such provisions."

Mr. ABBOTT: Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding this. It is not necessary for me to say anything more, except to point out that two of the conditions proposed, *viz.*, that of attestation of all contracts and agreements, and the compulsory appearance of all coolies before the Protector of Emigrants, who will satisfy himself that coolies understand the true conditions under which they are emigrating, are practically taken from Act I of 1903 which was passed by the Madras Government. Therefore, we ask for nothing new in asking for these two.

Mr. BROCK: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with very great interest to Mr. Martin's remarks, in which he has, so strongly and so clearly, brought before you the greatest trouble, in fact, the root of the trouble of our labour problems. The heading under which we are talking is "recruiting and emigration," and if we are going to deal with emigration alone, as Mr. Martin has suggested to us, I do not see that we can safeguard ourselves to any great extent, unless we govern all recruiting in Southern India. The figures he gave us in regard to emigration and the rate at which it is increasing are very interesting, but very serious; and also the information that he gave us of the apparent hardship of coolies in the case of those going to Ceylon. The native cooly apparently receives only a very small proportion of the actual money spent in recruiting him. Mr. Martin is also quite right when he says that the pressure from outside is the reason for the trouble amongst ourselves in India; remove that pressure and we have no trouble at all. He also says that we must protect ourselves; but I take it that we must protect ourselves, not only by checking or having some check on the coolies going out of the country, but also by having some check on the coolies we keep in the country for ourselves. The only point where I do not agree with Mr. Martin is, that I do not think that the proposals that he brings forward will be of slightest permanent good to us. It is quite true they will probably cause a temporary check on emigration, by the coolies being frightened, when they get to the port of emigration, by being told that what has been promised to them is not likely to be carried out. But we must remember that the demand for labour in those countries which are recruiting in India is so very great, that they will make every possible endeavour to overcome any little difficulties or troubles that we might place in their way, I do not

believe for a moment that even if these suggestions, which are in themselves very excellent as far as they go, will have any permanent effect in safeguarding us as far as we are concerned, or in keeping our labour and more particularly the labour advanced by ourselves. The danger, I say, that is going to arise is from these outside rubber-growing countries. If they find that they cannot get labour for the amount of money that they spend now, they will have to increase their outlay in getting coolies. In other words, it will end in a war of advances. We cannot get along without advances. We have agreed that it is a regrettable fact; but I think that if we undertake any step which is likely to increase advances we shall only be cutting our own throats. Last year the Anamalai Planters' Association sent me down with a scheme of registration which they asked me to place before you. This scheme has been submitted to all District Associations, but the opinions they have given about it are very varying. The Anamalais sent round a circular asking two questions of every District Association: first, whether each individual district was satisfied or unsatisfied with its present system of recruiting; and, secondly, if not, what they would suggest to be done or if they could suggest anything better than the scheme put forward by my Association. Of the 12 Associations, two affirmed that their labour recruiting conditions were perfectly satisfactory; eight replied that they were unsatisfactory; and two gave no opinion at all. But as to suggestions in regard to what they would propose to be done, no more than two Associations held the same opinion. Two Associations decided that it was their opinion that Act I of 1903 must be universally introduced before any other labour legislation should be attempted. Two Associations said that the scheme put forward by the Anamalai Planters' Association was the best, but one of them thought that it was too elaborate. Another Association said, "leave it for the present," but gave no further suggestion. Two Associations frankly admitted that they had nothing to suggest, while the Anamalais Association still remained alone in its opinion that it is unanimously in favour of universal registration for plantation labour. My Association is extremely disappointed. You too, sir, I remember early in the year tried to call a mass meeting of planters of Southern India in order that the subject might be thoroughly threshed out. This also fell through. I am sorry to see that during the last six months the word "labour" has hardly appeared in the proceedings of any of the District Associations. This should not be so. The question of our labour is surely, sir, the most vitally important one that affects us. What is the good of a Coffee Cess or a Green Tea Bonus to us if our maistries are to be allowed to crimp one another's coolies? What can the Scientific Officer do for us or how can we carry out his recommendations if our coolies leave us with their advances unrecovered to try their luck in other countries in response to the glowing advertisements and honeyed words of recruiters? I would go even so far as to ask, what is the good of the U.P.A. to us if we do not make use of it as a medium through

which, at any rate, to make some attempts to solve our labour troubles ?

I pointed out last year that Ceylon had repeatedly made efforts to legislate for their labour troubles. They have at last come to the conclusion that it is practically useless to go on making criminal legislation against defaulters, but have endeavoured to remove the temptation to default away from their coolies and maistries. To this everybody immediately replies that the conditions of Ceylon are totally different from those of India. This is only too true in more aspects than one ; but it is no argument whatsoever against the fundamental principle of trying to maintain honesty amongst our labour. In your houses you do not leave your drinks, jewels and other valuables about and place temptation in the way of your servant just because you know you can punish him if he steals your goods. If you are so sympathetic to your servants, why should you not be still more so to your labour, which is infinitely more important to you ? There is only one way I can see to remove the temptation to default from our labourers and maistries ; that is, to take the temptation away by registration and by making it impossible for them to receive more than one advance. There is no necessity for me to go on talking. I spoke a lot about this subject last year. All I said last year stands good this year ; infinitely more so if possible. I will therefore move the following amendment to Mr. Martin's resolution :—"That this Association is of the opinion that some form of compulsory Registration of Plantation Labour both for work in India and for emigration has become necessary in order to regulate the conditions of Labour Recruiting."

MR. DICKINS, in seconding the amendment, said :—I cannot lay sufficient stress in stating to you the very serious outlook on the Shevaroys with regard to our present inadequate labour supply. In former years we had, I may say, an almost abundant supply of labour. Last year we began to feel the pinch. This season the situation is serious ; and we almost dread to think of what is before us in the near future. With the dreaded Bug, which appears to be invading our territory steadily, it behoves us to be up and ready to meet the enemy with a strong army. Some better means must be adopted by us if we wish to retain our fast diminishing labour supply and prevent it from being taken away by unscrupulous recruiting agents. I beg to state that we have nearly 7,000 acres of coffee on the Shevaroys. It is the most important industry in the district, and if we are unable to work our estates as hitherto I am afraid this important industry will be a thing of the past.

MR. DANVERS : Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—While recognising the extreme seriousness of the position, I am not quite clear as to how either of these resolutions is likely to mitigate matters. Both Mr. Brock and Mr. Martin have advocated removal of pressure from outside and have stated that then our labour troubles will be set right. That is so, but I cannot see how the pressure is to be removed. If you get Government to pass an Act

such as Mr. Martin advocates, I think pressure will only be very slightly reduced, for these countries of Ceylon and the Straits will simply pay more for their labour then. They must have it, and I think you will agree with me that they will have it. As regards Mr. Brock's scheme of registration I am in accord with what Mr. Hamilton said last year, that it savoured too much of dragooning a whole population. I have no suggestions to make.

MR. MEAD said that there was no doubt that those other countries wanted labour and would have it. They would like to pay as little as they could, but they would try to have the labour. The question which struck him was whether they in India realised how the cost of living had gone up for the cooly himself and whether they were not losing coolies because they were underpaying them. They would find that in certain districts they were only getting the lowest class of coolies to work in their plantations, because others would not move out of their villages for a wage of 4 annas. A curious thing happened the other day. He had been asking one of his Superintendents where he drew his best labour from. It was Coimbatore that he named, where his (Mr. Mead's) Company had a labour dépôt. He would say that in Wynaad there was not a single Vellala cooly. They were paying such low wages that they got only scum labour. It was not from across the seas that their labour troubles came, but from their own districts. He had lost some of his coolies to Mr. Martin's district. He did not blame Mr. Martin for it; he blamed himself, for the wages that were paid by him were lower than those Mr. Martin paid and the best of his bad lot of coolies were now in Travancore.

MR. COUCHMAN said that he thought Mr. Mead had hit the right nail on the head when he remarked that they should raise the wages of the coolies. The other day he had met a manager from the Straits, on the South Indian Railway, and he had told Mr. Couchman that he anticipated that they would soon have to pay one rupee per day for coolies for a working day—up to one o'clock—a four hours working day. He had also stated what Mr. Martin had stated, that the coolies arrived on the estates free of all debt and that no attempts were made to recover from the coolies any debts that they might incur. They should remember that within the last generation the price of food grains on which the cooly lived had risen three to four hundred per cent. It was simply impossible for them therefore to get a cooly to work for the same wage now as about 30 years ago.

Mr. Couchman said that he found that he had to pay very high rates to get coolies to work on the agricultural farms for a short time. No cooly would leave his home and go far away if he could not get a good deal more than he could get in his own place. Four annas a day was a regular wage for everybody. It was too much to expect a cooly to go to a hill country, which was generally unhealthy, for the same wages as he could earn in his own village. Landowners of the Presidency were feeling this pinch quite as much as planters did. Lots of wet land were lying idle in Tanjore because coolies

went to the Straits and other parts because planters there were offering them better wages. Coolies who remained in the villages were the worst of their kind, and the best men went away and returned to their homes as small capitalists.

He thought Mr. Martin rather went beyond the mark when he represented that the Government was actively favourable to emigration. He did not think that there was any ground for saying that. He (Mr. Couchman) found landowners asking him often, "why cannot you prevent agricultural coolies from going out by making them appear before village Magistrates prior to their going?" If that was done the cooly would be utterly helpless; he would become a mere slave, for they could always trump up some debt or other against him and prevent his going. An important part of Mr. Martin's speech was that in which he alluded to misrepresentation and fraud on the part of recruiting agents. If that existed, it was a very serious matter, and he thought that it was quite possible that, if that was proved, something would be done by Government to remedy it. In saying this he was speaking only as a private individual. He had no doubt Mr. Martin would tell them of cases of coolies who had gone to the Straits and had come back disappointed. They would require a great mass of positive evidence on that point before they could get Government to legislate. But something might be done by Government to see that all coolies were fully informed about their rights. He doubted that it would be possible for Ceylon to continue to recruit their coolies if they really did misrepresent matters very seriously. Mr. Martin said that in Ceylon a cooly was promised so much a day but he only got wages for four days in a week. If that went on to any extent, would it be possible for Ceylon to continue to recruit here? He rather doubted that. Therefore they would require a very large mass of evidence before they approached Government with a request for legislation to remove any evil practice which existed. If they could prove anything of that sort to exist on a large scale, they would have the whole body of landowners behind them in asking the Government to try and put it right (cheers).

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. MEAD said that he had been a Superintendent of an up-country Ceylon estate and he had known coolies there have as little as three days work a week in monsoon months. They would have to have more coolies than they required if they were to gather their spring crops. It was quite a common thing for the head maistry of a Ceylon estate to go up to his Superintendent and say that he wished to have another, advance, and if the Superintendent did not give the advance he asked for—it was practically a bonus on wages—he found great difficulties in getting the labour he required. As regards recruiting for other districts outside India, what was most objectionable was the employment of native maistries who had annually to deliver coolies at the dépôt to be paid head money. Those men had every inducement to lie to a cooly. There was no way he could see by which

they could let a cooly see the real state of affairs unless they appointed a Protector of Emigrants.

MR. MURPHY: When a cooly goes from British India to Native States is that emigration or migration?

MR. BROCK said with reference to Mr. Danvers' remarks that he could not see how the pressure of their labour difficulties would be removed under either Mr. Martin's proposals or his (Mr. Danvers') own. With reference to this, he (Mr. Brock) had contended last year that if the coolies were all registered, it would be found to relieve the pressure, in that every new Estate or District which wanted labour, when the existing available labour was registered, would have to move further afield. They could not get registration done voluntarily, and the only way was to get it done was by compulsion. Mr. Danvers had stated that the Anamalai scheme which had been brought up last year savoured too much of dragooning the population. He (Mr. Brock) was not pressing any individual scheme upon them; he was only trying to find out the opinions of Associations, and to find out if the majority of planters considered that some sort of registration was the best way of dealing with their labour troubles. Further, he could not see how any scheme of registration of plantation labour in India was dragooning the population any more than it was in Ceylon. The scheme he had drawn up was practically a copy of the Ceylon scheme. He did not claim any originality of his own, except that it had to be hedged in with safeguards because they were not living in an island. Mr. Mead had stated that the chief solution to the difficulty was, in his opinion, to raise the pay of coolies. He quite agreed with Mr. Mead. If the Association did not think that registration was possible he did not think either that any other similar proposals were feasible. The only result he could see Mr. Martin's proposals would have was that they would result in increasing advances. It would be far better to take neither the suggestions of the last year's committee nor his own suggestions of registration, and let them have a war of rates if necessary, but avoid a war of advances at all costs. As for the prevention of misrepresentation to the coolies on the part of these emigration recruiters, he thought it would later on become a mere matter of money. They would have to come back to the same question of advances. If they had to stop misrepresentation it would merely mean bribing the cooly to tell the Protector of Emigrants that he was going to get 6 annas a day while in reality he was being promised 10 annas. Otherwise they would tell him that he would not be allowed to go out of the country to earn so much money. The coolie will do or believe anything he is told to if he holds an extra Rupee present in his palm.

He would far rather that the Association refuse both the resolutions than not go the whole hog, as it were, and arrive at some results which were sure to be of benefit to them and safeguard them. Half-measures were only likely to run them into further risks.

MR. ABBOTT inquired if the meeting would agree to have the labour report printed, if there was no objection on the part of the committee to do so; because he saw a great many allusions to it. He was not able to get any copy of it; it was not printed in the *Chronicle* nor in the Book of Proceedings. He therefore proposed that they should have the labour report printed. They had Mr. Brock's scheme printed in the book of proceedings, and they could study it. Very few planters, excepting Secretaries of Associations to whom the committee report was circulated, had any idea of what the report was about, and what even its recommendations were. Would there be any objection to printing the report? It could perhaps be printed in the *Chronicle*.

MR. MARTIN: At our special request it was not printed. We thought of the printing of the Ceylon Labour enquiry, that the publication of it was a great mistake. I am the only representative of the committee here to-day. I do not think that other members would go back on anything I say now. I have no objection whatever to its being printed with the heading "For private circulation only;" provided it is not in the *Chronicle* or in the Book of Proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: Has any other delegate got anything to say on the matter? I should like to hear the views of other districts.

MR. DANVERS: In view of what Mr. Couchman has told us of the difficulties of approaching the Government in this matter, it seems to me that our only course is to fall back on another committee which might be appointed to collect specific instances of misrepresentation on the part of recruiting agents and to work in conjunction with a lawyer and afterwards to submit a report to the Council of the U. P. A. in the matter. We have got rather into a blind alley, I think.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to reply in open meeting, Mr. Martin?

[IN OPEN MEETING].

MR. MARTIN said that it was a great privilege to have Mr. Couchman present amongst them, to be able to put them right with reference to anything that had been stated touching the Government. There were two things which called for reply from him. As regards misrepresentation on the part of recruiters, &c., he had been at that since 1903. In 1904 in that room he had been asked to produce specific instances and concrete cases. Well, it was very difficult to catch a recruiter at it. However, he caught two and the matter was taken up by the police and the men were punished. He had copies of the judgment with him and sent them to Mr. Hodgson, who had been their Planting Member then. Mr. Hodgson had thanked him very much. When he (Mr. Martin) said that something must be done, Mr. Hodgson replied, "what more can be done: the men have been punished." Like Sherlock Holmes he had to ferret out these cases. It did not suit him at all. Otherwise it was rather interesting work. It was common knowledge

that promises were made to coolies to induce them to emigrate, and some of the printed circulars containing such promises were no doubt still going round : the one, for instance, which promised coolies a seventh day's wages for no work, if they worked six days in the week. That was published broadcast all over the place. It was not very long afterwards that they saw in the public press a minute of the proceedings of a Planters' Association—he did not know which one, but it was in the Malay States—which decided that this privilege should no longer be given to the coolies. Therefore the promise was distinctly broken. He had no doubt that if they put themselves to it, they could catch other men misrepresenting matters in print. He had noticed lately that Malay Planters in their printed circulars were careful to be very accurate. For instance, the circular issued last April and May by a Malacca Company when they established a large dépôt at Perundurui, never went beyond promising a single thing that they would not do. Still, there were others not so very careful.

As regards Government's sympathy with emigration, of course it might not be active. He did not state anywhere that they were actively sympathetic, but they were sympathetic. He could not produce the Blue Book which showed the correspondence between the Government of India and the committee appointed to look into this matter, because it was not available in Madras or Bangalore. He hoped to get it soon. What he had quoted in his speech had been taken from the *Home and Colonial Mail*, which had the blue book before it, and in which it said that, the Government of India had advanced the argument that it was in the interest of India that emigrants should return to India with their savings, and make room for others for employment. That was distinctly sympathetic in regard to emigration, though it might not be actively so.

There was another thing brought up by Mr. Couchman. It was nothing new for them to ask Government to appoint Protectors of Emigrants who would make certain that the coolies understood the conditions under which they were going to emigrate. Under the Emigration Act it was provided for so far as indentured coolies were concerned, and under Act I of 1903 the Government do not allow coolies to go to estates in India without their being examined on the lines he had suggested as to full knowledge of all the terms they were work under. If under Act I they proposed to ask coolies when they were going to any estates in India, it was not unreasonable to ask them to take some steps in regard to coolies emigrating out of India. He acknowledged the force of Mr. Brock's argument that his (Mr. Martin's) proposal did not go the whole hog. He (Mr. Martin) was rather ashamed of this. He had all along said that it was only a step he proposed, because he could not see his way to go the whole hog. It was not even a half-measure ; it was only a step, and he thought a step in the right direction which might possibly do them good (cheers).

The CHAIRMAN : I put Mr. Brock's amendment.

The amendment was declared lost.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now put the resolution proposed by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Abbott.

The resolution was declared carried.

FRESH SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

MR. DANVERS addressed the Conference as follows:—

The problem of our labour supply is becoming more and more acute with the passage of time and the expansion of our industries; and it seems to me that some determined effort should be made to tap new sources. Hitherto we, in North Mysore, have been left more or less in the enjoyment of our very inferior labour—we hoped that their very inferiority would secure them to us—but, as any sort of rubbish seems capable of being incorporated with rubber, so the scum of South Canara is not apparently to escape. I understand that a fearsome dragon in the shape of a Labour Agent has been heard of there—and whether he has absorbed any coolies I cannot say; but certain it is that some have disappeared from our ken. Competition is inevitable and no doubt justifiable; but it seems regrettable that some other field cannot be exploited than one in which supply and demand are so evenly balanced as they are in South Canara.

Gentlemen, I spoke last year of a cloud on the horizon in the shape of threatening competition for labour. I then meant planting competition only; but the trend of events including the awakening of the people of this country to the necessity and advantages of industrial pursuits other than agriculture has made me believe that in the near future mines, manufactures and miscellaneous industries will be our chief and most formidable competitors, keeping thousands near home who now journey to us, or across the seas; and it is a question whether the Planting Expert of the future will not need to direct his attention to the devising of substitutes for coolies, or even to manufacturing synthetic coolies. It may also behove us to see how far machinery may take the place of man—and more difficult feats have been accomplished than the cultivation of a hill-side by machinery. Our salvation cannot lie in attracting away each other's labour; either fresh sources must be tapped or substitutes provided. If neither of these alternatives can be managed, then planting produce will become the spoil of the fittest—and the fittest will not be this individual planter or that Company; large estates will disappear, and that already bloated vampire, the middle man, will stalk through the land, gathering rubber from one small native garden, tea from another, and coffee from a third.

I, therefore, beg to propose the following Resolution:—

“That a determined effort be made by the Planting Community of Southern India to tap fresh sources of labour, and that a representative Committee be appointed for the purpose of acquiring information on the subject.”

MR. MEAD, in seconding the proposition, said that he thought the labour dragon in the shape of a recruiting agent had been

produced by his company. He would say that he himself saw it the other day in South Canara when he had been there on much the same errand. But he thought it possible that Mr. Danvers would find that there was room for them both; that while there was a certain amount of labour that Mysore planters were employing at their present rate of wages, he would be able to tap other sources which would fit in with tea conditions. He was in absolute sympathy with the necessity of opening up new sources of labour supply. He had found another dragon on the Mangalore platform in the shape of a Ceylon recruiter, who informed him that he had succeeded in recruiting 800 coolies and shipped them to the Isle of Spices, and that he was going to ship some more shortly.

He (Mr. Mead) had another experience when they were opening up North Travancore. Mr. Richardson had gone up to Cuddapah during the famine year. They recruited 800 coolies to open up North Travancore. Frankly, the coolies were not a success. They came from a famine-stricken district and their physique was not first class, and one would have thought that they would be glad to earn 5 annas. They proceeded to steal and secrete timber from the clearings with a view to cook their rice with. With the exception of one or two gangs they all bolted. He thought the distance was about 800 miles to their district, and it was simply marvellous how they had found their way back. He thought that no Cuddapah labour had since then worked in the High Range. On that occasion they paid the coolies' fare the whole way down to the estates. The cost of the experiment was not at all justified by the results. However, his company was thinking of going further north; and, he thought, with better results.

The CHAIRMAN : I would just like to add one word to what Mr. Mead told us about Cuddapah labour, and that is to point out that at the time we got these coolies we were opening up new land. The work was very hard. There was no plucking. I think that the coolies had not perhaps quite a fair chance. One gang did their work, but I admit they did not come back.

[IN COMMITTEE]

MR. MARTIN said that as one who had tried very hard to get coolies from new districts, he would say that the present conditions were not what they had been years ago. Wherever he went he always went to the Travellers' bungalow and told the kitchen matey that he wanted some coolies. The matey used to say he would bring them but "what will you pay me per head?" He used to say that he would advance the cooly but could not pay the recruiter anything per head. Supposing that some day he was compelled to go in and had to pay the recruiter something per head; but there was nothing to prevent a recruiter handing ten coolies to him, having previously told them that when they came back he would give them one rupee each. These particular ten coolies might not be sold to him. But every time they went back the recruiter got Rs.5 per head, which was a very profitable business. That was the

great difficulty now-a-days. The Straits and Ceylon people had ruined all their chances in any new districts. It was the easiest way no doubt of getting coolies, to pay so much per head to the recruiter, but it was not the easiest way of keeping them.

MR. DANVERS said that the Ceylon recruiter seemed to have gone to every district.

The CHAIRMAN : I put Mr. Danvers' resolution, seconded by Mr. Mead, in Committee.

The resolution was carried in Committee.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN next put Mr. Danvers' resolution in open meeting, and declared it carried.

At this stage the Conference adjourned for the day.

Fifth Day, Friday, the 5th August, 1910.

The Conference assembled at 11 A.M., all the delegates attending. Mr. M. E. Couchman, I. C. S. was also present.

Before the business on the agenda paper was proceeded with, Mr. Abbott desired to offer an explanation to Mr. Malcolm in regard to the report of his (Mr. Abbott's) speech in the *Madras Mail*.

MR. ABBOTT said:—Mr. Chairman,—Mr. Malcolm has called my attention to the report of Tuesday's debate on the Labour Law in the *Madras Mail*. It is merely, I think, owing to the fact that Editors cannot be expected to give full reports of all that happens at these Meetings. No doubt all that was said will be fully reported in the Book of Proceedings. But, as Mr. Malcolm has asked me to put the matter right, I am glad to be allowed to do so. I said, in speaking about Act I, "as far as Wynaad was concerned, I believed when I went home that we had agreed to leave the subject alone." Mr. Malcolm said that he did not recollect any such agreement. In my reply I said that I accepted his disclaimer. You will recollect that I did say this, or words to that effect, but that part of what I said is not printed.

MR. MALCOLM: I accept the explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: While we are on the matter of reporting, Mr. Barber has asked if he may be allowed to have reported what he said in reply to Mr. Mead.

Mr. Barber informed the Chairman that he had arranged the matter with Mr. Mead.

Labour,

FRESH SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take up Mr. Danvers' resolution on the subject of "fresh sources of labour supply" at the point where we left off yesterday. You will remember that Mr. Danvers proposed to appoint a Committee to investigate into fresh sources of labour supply.

MR. DANVERS proposed: "That Messrs. Richardson, Mead, Tipping, Pittock and Marti constitute the Committee for inquiring into fresh sources of Labour Supply.

MR. BARBER seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: I will be very pleased to do all I can, but I hope to be able to go Home early next year.

MR. PITTOCK: I cannot accept appointment to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Danvers, it is suggested that your name be put in place of Mr. Pittock.

The resolution was altered by Mr. Danvers' name being substituted in place of Mr. Pittock's, and then put to the meeting and carried in the following form :—

“ That Messrs. Richardson, Mead, Tipping, Danvers, and Martin constitute the Committee for inquiring into fresh sources of Labour Supply.”

NON-SERVICE OF WARRANTS.

MR. BROCK: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—When we brought up the subject of non-service of warrants last year, we produced many cases of complaints of warrants not being properly served, and stated that it was our opinion that sufficient trouble was not taken on the part of the police to serve them. During the year I understand that, in most districts, District Superintendents of Police have interested themselves in this matter, and tried to get more thorough control over the constables who serve the warrants. They have taken considerable trouble over the matter, and I think there is some slight improvement. In the Coimbatore district, the District Superintendent insisted that whenever a warrant was not served, it should be returned endorsed with all particulars as to the reasons of non-service. Still the wily constable has managed to get out of this more stringent supervision. He has discovered that it is quite impossible to serve a warrant in Native States or to run after coolies that have emigrated; and it is most extraordinary what a number of warrants have been returned unserved, endorsed “gone to Cochin,” “gone to Travancore,” “gone to the Straits.” I do not believe that all of these defaulters can have gone to these places. Still, there it is. We have got to accept these statements. I cannot say exactly what steps we are to take to stop this or to make it better. I only want to draw the attention of the meeting to the fact that we are grateful for what the District Superintendents of Police have done and for the trouble they have taken in the matter, though the net result does not give us a very much improved position.

MR. BARBER: I have been asked to affirm what Mr. Brock said about coolies, about the endorsement on warrants that coolies have gone to Cochin, &c., &c. It is probably not true. I believe I am right in saying that there are not 20 Tamil coolies working in Cochin at present. Mr. Malcolm, earlier in the meeting, reported that maistries have been enticed away to Cochin.

MR. MALCOLM: I do not recollect having used the word “enticed away.” I used the word “they bolted.” I was referring to one particular instance.

MR. ABBOTT wished to suggest that if possible they should ask for extra police in those districts where they had Act I of 1903 in force, as the service of those warrants was looked upon as extra work on the police. If they accepted the recommendation of the Labour Committees last year, it would perhaps meet the case.

MR. MEAD, in supporting Mr. Abbott, said that he had heard in private conversation with two D. S. P's, that it was their opinion

that the police were not sufficiently numerous to serve all the warrants that came to them and that special police were wanted to do the work.

THE CHAIRMAN: On this point the Government have already written to the U. P. A. S. I. The letter runs as follows:—"I am directed to request that the Government of Madras may be informed whether any difficulties arise in connection with the operation of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859 (Act XIII of 1859) owing to offenders absconding to Native States, and, if so, whether in the opinion of the United Planters' Association any special measures are desirable to provide for their arrest in such cases."

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. ABBOTT: We have no extradition to Native States except to Mysore, which we have under the old Rendition. This circular has nothing to do with extradition.

MR. MEAD pointed out that the subject before the meeting was non-service of warrants and what they complained of was as regards British India. As far as Cochin and Travancore were concerned, the answer was that they were not allowed to send them into Native States.

MR. BROCK said that the point he wanted to bring out was, that the constable, knowing that there was no extradition to Native States, and to save himself the trouble or to cover his reasons for not serving the warrant, simply endorsed the warrant "gone to Cochin," "gone to Travancore," &c., because the constable knew that no further action could be taken. He said that the number of those returned with such endorsements was extraordinary, whereas they knew that in Cochin there was no Tamil pariah labour working at all. Therefore it was most unlikely that all defaulting coolies had gone to these places. He only wished to know if anybody could make any suggestion to stop this abuse.

MR. BARBER said that he did not know that this matter of non-service of warrants was coming up. A member of his Association obtained a warrant against a man in Mysore, and he did not know what to do with it. He took it to the D. S. P., Mr. Mullaly, and asked him what to do. Mr. Mullaly replied to him that it was absolutely useless to attempt to serve it. He (Mr. Barber) had a warrant with him to serve against a man. He knew where this man was and what he was doing. The man was a tappal-runner. He could not do anything with him.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is anything more to come up under this subject, please bring it up as quickly as possible.

MR. MEAD; I beg to propose:—

"That this Association place on record its opinion that the non-service of warrants under Act I of 1903 and Act. XIII of 1859 is still of frequent occurrence in the Coimbatore District and Mysore, and request that the Governments concerned increase the Police force in those districts in which labour is largely recruited for plantation work."

MR. BROCK seconded the motion.

MR. MARTIN : I would like just to point out with reference to the wording of this resolution, that we say in it that it is our opinion that non-service of warrants under Act XIII of 1859 is of increasing frequency. As a matter of fact there are only two districts to which Act XIII applies, the Shevaroy's and the Anamalais, and when our Secretary wrote round for cases under the Act, neither of these Associations produced any ; so that we can hardly say they are of increasing frequency.

MR. BARBER : Why does not the Act apply in Mysore State ?

MR. DANVERS : Mysore is a Native State.

MR. MARTIN : I quite admit that under Act I of 1903 we can say non-service of warrants is of increasing frequency.

MR. BROCK : We can show from the Anamalais that there too it is of increasing frequency. I think the information has been sent to the Secretary.

MR. DICKINS : There were no cases to report from the Shevaroy's. I sent round circulars to the members of my Association, but received no reply.

MR. MARTIN : I personally want to see Act XIII included in that resolution, but the Government will naturally ask us to show that our opinion is justified.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON said that a great deal of this difficulty, if not all of it, arose from the want of reciprocity of service of warrants. It was very probable that the British Government would not take the first step to secure all that they required, but it was possible, he would not say probable, that their best course would be to interest the three Native Governments and to get them to send in a simultaneous request to the British Government for reciprocal facilities. He had no grounds on which to form an opinion as to whether other States concerned would do this. The Mysore Government had already done so. He just threw out the suggestion for their consideration.

MR. MEAD : That will practically mean Act XIII with extradition.

Honorable MR. HAMILTON : Act XIII or Act I, whichever you choose.

MR. MEAD : The circular sent round by Mr. Ormerod would seem to mean that the Government are sympathetic.

MR. DANVERS : While welcoming extradition, I don't see how it will improve service of warrants in British territory.

Hon'ble MR. HAMILTON : It would get over Mr. Brock's difficulties.

MR. PITTOCK pointed out that the Madras Government had no jurisdiction to ask for an increase of the Police force in Mysore.

MR. DANVERS observed that an increase in the police would mean merely more men sending endorsements.

The CHAIRMAN : The resolution is in answer to the circular. I will put it in Committee.

The resolution was carried.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The resolution was then put in open meeting, and carried.

The CHAIRMAN : We now come to this circular from the Madras Government. Mr. Martin pointed out that two of the Associations concerned under Act XIII had given no reply. Mr. Ormerod must be in a position to say something in reply to it. It has been long held in abeyance. We will go into Committee on that.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Brock, you have some remarks to make.

MR. BROCK : We have got evidence. I will speak to our Honorary Secretary to send it.

MR. ABBOTT : I have given Mr. Ormerod all I had to give.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Brock is prepared to send in some evidence. I propose that it be sent in to Government along with this resolution which we have passed.

MR. MARTIN : District Associations do not appeal to Act XIII of 1859 where they have reason to believe that the defaulter has taken refuge in a Native State, because they know it is quite useless and waste of money and time to do so, owing to want of extradition. We are therefore not in a position to bring forward cases. If extradition was in force between Native States and British India, the Act would be resorted to. I propose :

“ That the Secretary be instructed to reply to the inquiry of the Government of Madras in the following terms :—‘ The members of District Associations do not appeal to Act XIII of 1859 when they have reason to believe that the defaulter has absconded to Native States, as under present conditions it would be a waste of time ; but the U. P. A. S. I. is of opinion that if Act XIII of 1859 included a clause to provide for their arrest in such cases it would be desirable, and is further of opinion that this privilege should be reciprocal.’ ”

MR. DANVERS seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN : I put the resolution in Committee.

The resolution was carried.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

The CHAIRMAN : I now put the resolution in open meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

COOLY AGREEMENTS

MR. DEANE said :—Gentlemen,—As regards the non-attestation of cooly agreements, our Association would press for early and effectual measures to remove existing difficulties. General dissatisfaction is expressed, and an influential member of the Association

reports that he finds it is utterly impossible to get any officials to attest his cooly agreements. I can best explain the position by reading extracts from his letter on the subject :—

“One of my Head Maistries has just come back from his village and has told me that it is utterly impossible to get any official in the Mysore State to attest cooly agreements. Even the Sub-Postmasters of villages refuse to do it, he says. Some little time ago, this very Maistry went to an official called a Taluq Shaikdar, who holds the same position as a Revenue Inspector in British Government, and asked him to attest a cooly agreement. This man, too, told him he would not do it, and requested the Maistry to go to the Amildar. When he did so, the Amildar in his turn kept putting him off by telling him to come to-morrow, the day after, and so forth, till finally he refused to attest the agreement.

“In these days of keen labour competition with agents from Ceylon all over the place, will a cooly willingly wait from day to day for his advance? Then, again how could a Maistry make such advance without securing himself with a proper agreement duly attested by some Government official in the Mysore country? The officials I have named, I am told, have full power to attest cooly agreements, but they refuse to do so for some reason or the other.

“It must be borne in mind that what is stated in this letter is only an instance, and that nearly all my Canarese Maistries experience the same difficulty. I have 14 large estates under my direct control, and 95 per cent. of the labourers I employ are Canarese. Since the last four or five years, there is a steady decline in this class of coolies, and if proper action is not taken in time the future will be very disastrous to us. It is for the United Planters Association of Southern India to bring these facts to the notice of the British Government, who should, in its turn, get the Mysore authorities to bestir their subordinates to carry out their duties in a proper way, in the interests of both its subjects. I pay an annual assessment and rent of about Rs.14,000 to Government, and it is only fair that I should receive its consideration and support in this matter.”

The Resolution I wish to move on this subject is as follows :—

“That, whereas it appears that coolies and maistries experience a considerable amount of delay and trouble in having their agreements attested by the Attesting Officers appointed for this duty under Act I of 1903 in the Mysore State, this Association request the Government of Mysore to issue stringent orders to all attesting officers impressing on them the absolute necessity of promptly and diligently attending to contracts presented to them for attestation and of not hampering coolies or maistries with any sort of vexatious delay or expense.”

MR. ABBOTT seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Prevention of Thefts of Produce.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we go back again to the prevention of thefts of tea, rubber, &c,

MR. TIPPING: The resolution has been before the meeting, and I hope Mr. Murphy has said all that was necessary in regard to his side of the question; that is, rubber. I understood when the Sub-Committee was appointed that Mr. Hamilton wished every thing to be settled by correspondence, as he had no time to attend it. Therefore the Sub-Committee has got no further than drafting this resolution. I think this might be put to the meeting without any further delay, as the cases which we wish to bring forward in connection with this will not affect the resolution in any way. All that I have now to do is to move the resolution:

"That, in view of the increasing production of Rubber, Tea, Pepper and Cardamoms in Southern India, it is considered advisable to ask the Government to pass some enactment for the protection of these products from theft, both on the Plantation and in transit to the Coast, an enactment similar to the Coffee-Stealing Prevention Act being considered suitable."

I do not think I need take up your time pointing out how this affects pepper. At present there is no protection whatever for pepper. It can be moved from one district to another without a pass or check of any kind whatsoever.

Mr. MURPHY seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Planters' Benevolent Fund.

The CHAIRMAN: We will now go on to the Planters' Benevolent Fund. I should like just to say a word. It has been pointed out during the course of the past year that one or two alterations to our rules are advisable; and one or two of us considered the question and I think Mr. Tipping is prepared to give the proposed alterations. It is also proposed that an Executive Committee be appointed, as it is feared that the whole Council of the U. P. A. is much too unwieldy a body to deal with it.

MR. TIPPING said that he would briefly explain the proposed alterations in the rules. Rule 2 was altered by substituting "an Executive Committee" for "the Council of the U. P. A." for the administration of this fund. In rule 3 there was rather an important alteration. It originally read: "Managers, Superintendents and Assistants of European recruiters for estates in Southern India and the European Assistants of the U. P. A., on payment of an annual subscription to the Benevolent Fund, &c." Now, the rule was altered to "European Managers, and Superintendents and Assistants and Medical Officers and Recruiters of estates in Southern India and European Assistants of the U. P. A."

Section 3 of rule No. 3 was unaltered. The next one dealt with the cases of Superintendents. It was pointed out that it might be a great hardship if, at the time of the death of a proprietor of an estate, the Superintendent lost his situation. He might then be in need of assistance through no fault of his own. It was therefore inserted in the rule that he should be entitled to assistance from the fund under certain restrictions.

They they had a clause dealing with companies. They inserted a provision in it that in the case of a company paying Rs.200 it would be entitled to the benefits of the fund for a period of 20 years. This rule placed companies on the same status as people who gave Rs.10 a year. In rule 4 there was no change made excepting the substitution of the word "Committee" in place of the "U. P. A. Council." Section C of this rule was omitted as they thought it was superfluous, for the reason that it was not the Secretary of the District Association who recommended cases. It was to be the Executive Committee which was to decide what cases were deserving of help. In the last rule it was inserted that the Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and one other member of the U. P. A. Council who shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting."

Those were, briefly, the alterations that were proposed to be made in the rules. If there was any serious objection to any of them he hoped that the gentlemen present would give their views briefly, as they were pressed for time. He had one other word to say in connection with the fund. That was, to ask not only Secretaries of District Associations but every member to appeal to his proprietors or to people who were likely to assist them in that fund; more especially those who indirectly derived benefit from the planting community. The sooner this was done the sooner would they be able to place the fund on a solid basis, and the less likely was it to languish. If they did not make a good start they would never be able to place the fund on a sound footing. The resolution he proposed was—

"That the rules of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund be adopted in their amended form, and that printed copies of these rules be supplied to all the members of this Association."

MR. MARTIN seconded the resolution.

In reply to Mr. Dickins. Mr. Tipping said that it was understood that Natives were not to be admitted to the benefits of this fund. It was recognised that the European was away from his own country and that in many cases he met with misfortunes in this country, so that the fund was started primarily to help such cases. In the same way, people of European parentage might wish to return to their homes, and it was intended that such people should also be assisted. The Native was in his own country, and he did not know where it would lead them if they were to undertake to assist Natives also. He did not think that the Planters' Benevolent Fund was a means of relieving cases of native destitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is just one point which I would like to bring to your notice: that is, if Honorary Secretaries of District Associations were writing to Home agents or bankers asking for donations for this fund, they should inform our Secretary of the matter. Otherwise he may be writing to the same people. I

hope Honorary Secretaries will do everything they can in this way and try and get in as much money as possible in the near future.

MR. TIPPING: This is also particularly a case for individuals to interest themselves in. The Honorary Secretaries may know only one or two persons. If each individual member would write to his proprietor or to any one else who was likely to help the fund we should arrive at some solid sum to go on with.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now put Mr. Tipping's resolution, which is seconded by Mr. Martin.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Rubber Seed.

The CHAIRMAN: Before going on to the next item on the agenda, Mr. Anstead has just reminded me of a point which might have been brought under the question of rubber, *viz.*, the question of dealing with rubber seed. He suggested that we should consult a competent engineer as to the cost of the machinery to deal with rubber seed. I do not think it is a case of spending money on this. I think any of the engineering firms in Colombo will gladly give us information on the matter.

MR. ANSTEAD did not like the idea of giving Ceylon people a tip in the matter. He thought it should be possible to get an Engineer on some of the Southern India estates to give them this information. A great many rubber proprietors were planning out factories, and if they were going to get machinery for crushing, the time for considering it was when they were erecting factories and not after that.

Mr. MEAD said that he would be able to get Mr. Dickson, the Engineer on his estate, to help them in the matter.

"The Planters' Chronicle."

The CHAIRMAN: The next matter we take up is the *Planters' Chronicle*.

MR. TIPPING: May I suggest that Mr. Ormerod tell us the state of affairs as regards the *Chronicle*? We should like to hear how things have been working during the last year.

[IN COMMITTEE].

The Secretary explained the financial position of the *Planters' Chronicle*.

Nitrolim.

MR. ANSTEAD: May I read a telegram which has just been received from Messrs Parry and Co? It shows that our discussion is being watched:

"Reference Scientific Officer's remarks at meeting yesterday *re* Nitrolim, we have just landed a consignment guaranteed eighteen per cent. Nitrogen. Will you very kindly inform planters interested?"

The CHAIRMAN : I think there is no possible chance of finishing this morning, because Mr. Ormerod has to draw up his estimates and figures. We cannot rush him.

The Cochin and North Travancore Planters' Association.

I wish to put formally before you the application of the Cochin and North Travancore Planters' Association, and I am sure you will be pleased to receive them into the Association (cheers).

The Rules of the U. P. A. S. I.

The next item to take up is the Rules of the U. P. A. S. I. I do not know whether there is any alteration to be made in the rules.

Has any one any alterations in the rules to propose?

Mr. PARSONS said :—

SIR,—I beg to propose that under Rule VII, after “ex-Planting members of Council” the words “and ex-delegates be inserted.”

GENTLEMEN,—We may take it as an axiom that to attend a meeting of the U. P. A. is an education, and that to foster and extend its influence is a duty. A certain supercilious reference to planters about the years 1892-93 brought it into existence. Act I of 1903 is one result, which, though it may be a sore—at the moment to some—time will no doubt heal; but let us keep a soft spot for it, if only on the ground that we are here to-day. But, gentlemen, another monument to amply justify its existence is the Scientific Officer—a gentleman with tact and courtesy and one who seems likely apparently to surmount that stupendous task, *viz.*, to please everyone.

The enthusiasm and extent of the meeting this year must be gratifying to those in authority, and especially to the indefatigable Secretary. Gentlemen, let us do our utmost to retain that enthusiasm. Compared with early years, interest in the U. P. A. tree appears to annually increase and its branches are ever spreading. And may we not conclude that it is quite possible the keen interest has been fostered by the delegates who return to their districts, glowing with pride and enthusiasm as the result of their labours and the stories they can unfold to their less fortunate brothers?

To retain and cherish this interest unabated is one object of my Resolution. Those who have given their time and labour at some time or another to benefit their comrades, should not, so to speak, go on the shelf.

Everyone cannot become Chairman, etc., and it seems to me a thousand pities to lose the services of those who have attended any of these meetings and who desire the welfare and expansion of the old Tree. Then again—the more delegates either to one meeting or at different times that a District Association can depute, the better for the prosperity of the U. P. A., and to any man who carps as to the benefit he may derive from the Association I should be disposed to reply, “withhold your criticism, my good fellow, until after you have attended one of the meetings.”

The Chairman, in his opening speech, has told us, and those who have undertaken the responsibility can confidently second him, how difficult it is to keep well oiled the wheels of a District Association so as to prevent the axles becoming too hot. But those men who have undertaken to superintend that complicated machinery, and those who have been prevented from attending here, are some of the men who should not be allowed to rust when other parts of the machinery have been renewed. In the multitude of councillors there is wisdom. We may all make mistakes, but, as Napoleon is reputed to have said, no one can become a great General unless he makes mistakes; and the strong man will admit it, if his judgment is at fault.

Gentlemen, delegates and members here are no place-seekers. I believe that every one attends with the deepest sincerity and to further the good of the whole planting community according to his judgment and belief. In conclusion I can but quote the words of an American poet (Laurence Binyan):

"Not each to each we are made
Not each to each do we fall
But every true part played
Quickens the heart of all."

The CHAIRMAN seconded Mr. Parsons' Resolution.

MR. BARBER proposed an amendment:

"That delegates of the previous year be admitted in like manner for one year only."

This; he said, would ensure continuity of policy and enable a delegate to offer any explanation personally in regard to his work during the past year.

MR. ABBOTT said that he was against Mr. Parsons' proposal, but he had no instructions from his Association, to whom he would have to refer before he could vote on it. Mr. Barber's amendment seemed to him a much more reasonable one, and he would be pleased to second it.

MR. DANVERS said that Mr. Parsons' proposal might bring funds to the Association and make for a continuity of policy, but the tree might grow into a very large forest, which might harbour pests and diseases and possibly lead even to fire.

MR. MARTIN said that he agreed with a great deal of what Mr. Parsons had stated. The value of their annual meeting at the Conference was undisputed and undoubted. Addition of ex-delegates would certainly contribute to prolonging their session. They would have no authority to speak for anybody but themselves as individuals. A few individuals' solitary votes would hardly affect their decisions; but at the same time they would take up a lot of time in speaking, possibly in opposition to the delegates from their districts. The Conference wanted the voice of the District Associations and not of a minority who possibly might be a dissenting one. In point of view of saving time, he thought a

smaller and better qualified meeting, one with more authority from the District Associations, would be more calculated to expand in the direction which Mr. Parsons had indicated. As regards the amendment he thought that anybody who had a personal explanation to make could very well do so through the *Planters' Chronicle* and in the public press.

MR. PARSONS, in replying to the observations of the previous speakers, said that he had anticipated their objections and understood them in many ways. But his main object was to maintain throughout outside interests in the U. P. A. If they allowed their ex-delegates still to maintain an interest in the U. P. A., it would tend to extend its influence outside that room. That was one of the chief objects they would have to look to. In regard to their meetings becoming unwieldy it was a very little matter for the Chairman to deal with. Before they decided that such a thing was likely to occur, why not try? If they found meetings becoming unwieldy and unsuitable they always had the power to rescind their Resolution. Therefore, he would strongly urge upon them the adoption of his Resolution, and to give it a trial. It would also lead to some increase in their funds, and they wanted everything they could get in that direction.

MR. BARBER'S amendment was put to the meeting, and carried.

[IN COMMITTEE].

MR. DANVERS said that he wished merely to explain to Mr. Parsons that though he thought that his idea was excellent in many respects he did not see how he was going to create any interest in the minds of those who did not take any interest now in the Association. Those who said, "what is the Association to me?" would never come down as delegates and would never have an opportunity of coming as ex-delegates.

Accounts.

MR. LEAHY proposed:—

"That the selection of Mr. W. H. Haldwell as auditor of last year's accounts be confirmed and that the audited statement of accounts presented by the Secretary be passed."

MR. BROCK seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

*[IN COMMITTEE].

"The Planters' Chronicle."

When the delegates reassembled in the afternoon there was a further discussion in regard to the above publication, and a decision was arrived at that it should continue to be worked on the system previously adopted.

A Suggestion was thrown out that met with general approval, viz: that the "Scientific Officer's Papers" originally published in the above paper should, at Mr. Anstead's convenience, be grouped in order of subjects, revised, and published separately in the form of Scientific Officer's Bulletins—for sale,

FINANCE.

The Secretary presented his "Budget Estimates," which were as follows :—

Income		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Balance brought forward	...	669	1	6			
Loan to Sc. O. Fund, recovered	...	409	14	0			
		<hr/>			1,078	15	6
Subscriptions 1910-11—							
Kanan Devan	...	800	0	0			
Nilgiris	...	625	0	0			
North Mysore	...	526	10	8			
South Mysore	...	425	0	0			
Mundakayam Rubber	...	387	10	8			
South Travancore	...	376	2	0			
Central Travancore	...	375	8	4			
Wynaad	...	362	9	4			
Anamalais	...	310	12	8			
Coorg	...	300	0	0			
Shevaroy's	...	200	0	0			
Cochin and North Travancore	...	182	12	8			
		<hr/>					
		4,872	2	4			
Ex-Chairmen, &c.		75	0	0			
		<hr/>			4,947	2	4
Grant from Government of Madras	...	1,000	0	0			
" Sc. O. Fund	...	1,000	0	0			
Interest on Reserve Fund	...	40	0	0			
"The Planters' Chronicle"	...	100	0	0			
		<hr/>					
		R.s.	8,166	1 10			

Expenditure.

Office (including Rent, Stationery and Printing, Postages, Telegrams and Petties)	...	2,400	0	0
Chairman's Travelling Expenses	...	150	0	0
Planting Member's	...	150	0	0
Secretary's	...	15	0	0
Reporter's Fee	...	250	0	0
Auditor's Fee	...	75	0	0
Subscription to London Chamber of Commerce	...	160	0	0
Secretary's Salary and Allowance	...	3,000	0	0
Special Bonus to Editor, "Planters' Chronicle"	...	1,200	0	0
Periodicals	...	300	0	0
Furniture	...	200	0	0
		<hr/>		
		R.s.	7,900	0 0

This "Budget" was approved and adopted.

By permission of the Chairman, the Secretary then made a statement regarding the finances of the Association, with special reference to the desirability of opening two banking accounts in Madras—(1) specifically for the moneys of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund, which, he thought, should be treated strictly as held in trust and should be lodged with the Bank of Madras; and (2) an account with the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., to facilitate payments out of the Scientific Officer Fund to the Government of Madras, and the purchase of Bills of Exchange, &c., on London, when required.

The Secretary pointed out that the great bulk of the income of the Association was received in cheques on Madras. To pay these to credit in Bangalore meant a loss of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ on Bank Exchange, and then when Government Paper or Bills of Exchange had to be bought another $\frac{1}{2}\%$ had to be paid in respect to the very same money for getting transfers made to Madras.

He expressed the hope that certain resolutions that he had drafted to meet the requirements of the Association would be put and carried; and he read the draft resolutions to the meeting, after explaining that the principles upon which his suggestions were based were as follows:—

1. That the moneys of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund should be invested with the Bank of Madras, Madras.
2. That the General funds of the Association should be deposited with the Bank of Madras, Bangalore, and the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., Madras.
3. That fixed deposits should be lodged with the National Bank of India, Ltd., Madras.
4. That Government Paper belonging to the Association should be handed over for safe custody and the collection of interest to the Bank of Madras, Madras.

A FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN stated that it had been thought advisable to establish a Finance Committee.

In the course of discussion it was decided that the same gentlemen as were to constitute this might as well act also as the Benevolent Fund Committee.

He, therefore, moved:—

That the Finance Committee and Committee of the Benevolent Fund shall consist of the Planting Member of Council, the Chairman of the U.P.A.S.I., and the Vice-Chairman, with the Secretary as *ex-officio* Member,

This was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING FINANCE.

The following Resolutions were then put from the Chair :—

- “ That the moneys of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund be banked or otherwise invested in the name of the U.P.A.S.I., any current account opened in this behalf to be specially marked 'S.I.P.B.F. account.' ”
- “ That the current banking account of the S. I. P. B. F. be opened and maintained with the Bank of Madras, Madras. ”
- “ That the Secretary to the U.P.A.S.I. for the time being be, and he hereby is, confirmed in his appointment as Honorary Secretary to the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund, and that he be, and he hereby is, appointed also Treasurer of that Fund and given authority to operate on the current account specially designated 'S.I.P.B.F. account' in the name of this Association and as its Secretary. ”
- “ That, in addition to the present current banking account with the Bank of Madras, Bangalore, a current account be opened with the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, in Madras, more particularly with a view to (1) economy in the encashment of cheques on Madras and the purchase of bills on London ; and (2) convenience of handling the Scientific Officer Fund. ”
- “ That the Finance Committee of the Association for the time being be, and they hereby are, authorized to pledge on behalf of the Association and for its use any of its properties or securities of whatsoever kind for the purpose of arranging with its bankers for any overdraft that the said Committee may deem to be necessary from time to time, the maximum limit of such overdraft being fixed at Rupees one thousand. ”
- “ That the Secretary be, and he hereby is, authorised to utilise temporarily any portion of the Reserve Fund of the Association that may be required to facilitate the fitting up of the Laboratory sanctioned for the Scientific Officer, any moneys so used to be replaced in the Reserve Fund as soon as collections on behalf of the Scientific Officer Fund will permit. ”
- “ That the Finance Committee of the Association for the time being be authorised to invest in fixed deposit any sum that they consider may be safely added to the Reserve Fund of the Association and also in Government securities any part of the Southern India Planters' Benevolent Fund which in the opinion of the Committee may be safely withdrawn from current account. ”

These resolutions were adopted unanimously, *en bloc*.

[IN OPEN MEETING].

All the above resolutions were then adopted in open meeting.

Auditor.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hamilton moved, and Mr. Brock seconded :

"That Mr. W. H. Haldwell be appointed auditor of the U. P. A. S. I. Accounts for the current year."

This resolution was carried unanimously.

Election of Office-Bearers for 1910-11.

After all ballot papers had been scrutinised, the Secretary announced that the result of the election was as follows :—

<i>Chairman</i>	... Mr. R. D. TIPPING.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	... Mr. C. H. BROCK.
<i>Secretary</i>	... Mr. ORMEROD.

MR. R. D. TIPPING, in thanking the Meeting, said :—Gentlemen, I feel highly honoured by the compliment you have paid me in electing me as your Chairman for the coming year, and which I have much pleasure in accepting. I may assure you that I shall do my best to carry out the duties which are imposed upon me; and if I fail to do so, it will not be from want of the will to do so but from want of ability. Gentlemen, I thank you once again.

MR. BROCK said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I thank you very much for having done me the honour of electing me as your Vice Chairman. I can assure you that in respect to any help I can give our new Chairman, he can count on me to do my best.

MR. TIPPING : I beg to thank Mr. Brock for his assurance of help, on which I feel sure I may rely.

Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.

MR. ABBOTT, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, said :—Gentlemen,—You may be alarmed at seeing me rise again; but this is the last time, and it is the pleasantest occasion as, in spite of several disappointments, I am at last quite confident of carrying the meeting unanimously with me. I have been asked to propose a vote of thanks to you, Sir, for the work you have done for the Association during the past year, and for the manner in which you have presided over this Meeting. I know it will be a very hearty vote of thanks. You have had a great deal of work to do before we came here, and have had a long meeting to manage, and we all feel we are very fortunate in having you here to get several difficult matters settled. I am sure it is not necessary for me to say anything more (Cheers).

The Chairman's Closing Address.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you, Mr. Abbott, for the very kind things you have said about me, and can only assure you that it has been a great pleasure to me to be your Chairman, and I must thank delegates and other gentlemen who have spoken here for their support and the consideration they have given me in discharge of my duties. We have had, I think, an interesting

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